



Navy News

OCTOBER 1995 50p



Last of the big parades

How they marked VJ Day around the world
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Hurricane mercy ship

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Prince honours Fleet Air Arm veterans

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New Harriers win NATO praise over Bosnia air strikes

NEW Sea Harrier FA2s and their pilots have won NATO praise for their part in the Allied bombing campaign over Serb-held Bosnia. Their sorties from HMS Invincible marked the Royal Navy's first offensive operations from an aircraft carrier since the Falklands War.

Before NATO suspended air strikes in response to the Serbs' withdrawal of heavy weapons from around Sarajevo, 800 Naval Air Squadron undertook 24 bombing sorties, 42 combat air patrols and 28 reconnaissance missions.

The 10-day campaign to force Serb compliance was the first offensive action ever undertaken by NATO, and the Sea Harriers flew missions as part of a wider operation involving aircraft from the US carriers Roosevelt and America and those from Italian air bases.

BANG ON TARGET!

Expertise

Gen Hornberg, commanding the Combined Air Operations Centre at Vicenza in Italy, praised Invincible's contribution, as well as the expertise of the Sea Harrier pilots in using the aircraft's multi-role capability to such good effect - including accurate bombing, reliable air cover and timely recon flights to assess bomb damage.

He also made special mention of the 100 per cent serviceability rate of the FA2 Harriers.

Invincible's commanding officer, Capt Ian Forbes, told Navy News that he was "greatly encouraged" by the professionalism of the whole ship's company as well as the aviators.

"There is no gung-ho feeling," he said. "Nobody likes to drop bombs, but we are a professional Service doing a professional job. I hope it leads to a just peace."

One of the pilots - who cannot be named for security reasons - said the new Sea Harrier was

● Turn to page 16

Launch of new Ocean

THE BIGGEST Royal Navy ship to be launched for 14 years goes down the slipway on October 11 at the Clyde shipyard of Kvaerner Govan.

HMS Ocean, a 20,000-ton flat-top, is due to enter operational service in 1998 as a helicopter assault ship. She will have the capacity for 20 support and attack helicopters, is designed to accommodate 800 Royal Marines, and operate landing craft.

When work on her hull is finished she will go to VSEL at Barrow-in-Furness to complete her fitting out.

The last HM ship of comparable size to be launched was the present HMS Ark Royal in 1981.



A Sea Harrier FA2 returns to HMS Invincible after a successful bombing raid over Bosnia.

Many hands make light work

MAKING light work of it, HMS Anglesey's "Greenies" give a power boost to Gibraltar Lighthouse during the ship's brief visit to the Rock while she was on fishery protection patrol in the tuna grounds.

The shining smiles for PO(PHOT) Fez Parker came from (left to right) LMEM(L) Mark Sander-son, Kenny McLernow and Stefan Noakes.



VCs in line to get big rise in annuity

HOLDERS of the Victoria and George Crosses are to have their annuities increased for the first time in 36 years.

A rise has been ordered by Prime Minister John Major who during World War II victory commemorations was reported to be shocked by the fact that the payments had stood at £100 a year since 1959.

At today's values that would equate with £1,190, although the Cabinet Office cannot as yet confirm any particular figure. An inter-departmental committee is reviewing the annuities and it is planned that changes will be made before the end of the year.

Crimean War

At present there are 33 living holders of the VC, George Cross holders number 43.

The VC, Britain's highest award for bravery in the face of the enemy, was instituted for the Crimean War. At that time holders of the medal - except those of commissioned rank - received an annuity of £10, with £5 extra for a Bar.

That sum remained the same until 1959 when Prime Minister Harold Macmillan announced a rise to £100 tax free.

GAYS: STUDY TEAM TO SAMPLE VIEWS

A MINISTRY of Defence assessment team has been formed to test the views of Service personnel on the Armed Forces' policy of excluding homosexuals.

A review of policy was urged by Lord Justice Simon Brown who, in a recent High Court case, upheld MOD's current position but said "the tide of history" was against it.

Headed by a senior civil servant, the assessment team will be staffed by officers from the Navy, Army and RAF.

Views will be sought from personnel of all ages and across the ranks in all three Services. The armed forces of other NATO nations will be visited to gauge their policies on homosexuality, but it is not planned to take evidence from pressure groups.

The assessment is due to be completed in January when a "paper of evidence" will be submitted to Ministers. The evidence will be presented to the Defence Select Committee who may, if they wish, hear witnesses. The final decision on whether reforms should go ahead is expected to rest with Parliament during next year's debate on the Armed Forces Bill.

Ministers and Armed Forces chiefs have, however, made it clear that they support the current policy on exclusion and that no decision had been taken to change it.

In September the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Jock Slater, publicly declared his opposition to admitting homosexuals, believing that relaxation of the policy would diminish team spirit and undermine trust and confidence in the confined surroundings of a warship.

"There is no choice of association in a ship. There is no privacy," he said. "And so I am absolutely certain that it is unacceptable in a ship of the Fleet to have declared homosexuals."

Pledge on future of Greenwich buildings

TAKING an unusual step, the Secretaries of Defence and National Heritage have written to *The Times* newspaper to correct any misunderstanding that the Royal Naval College, Greenwich will go to private ownership.

Following press speculation on the future of the college, Michael Portillo and Virginia Bottomley stressed in their letter that the buildings would not change from public ownership.

"The college is, and will continue to be, held by the Defence Secretary in trust for the Crown for the exclusive benefit of the Greenwich Hospital," they said. "The freehold is not being 'privatised' or sold; nor is the college being offered to the highest bidder."

Public access

The future of the college would be determined after a full evaluation of any expressions of interest - including those from the National Maritime Museum and the University of Greenwich. Within Government, a restructured Defence School of Languages had been suggested as an occupant.

Heritage considerations would be taken fully into account, they said. Better public access was a "clear objective", and any occupant would have to take part in management arrangements for inclusion in a World Heritage Site nomination.

The widest possible range of proposals would be considered to secure "an appropriate and sympathetic future use for this magnificent collection of buildings."

Lord Lewin

Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin of Greenwich has put forward a proposal for the transfer of responsibility for the site from MOD to the National Heritage Department.

Admiral Lewin said Greenwich Hospital foundation could then be managed by the Trustees of the National Maritime Museum, of which he is chairman. Under the plan, the Painted Hall and Chapel would be opened to the public.

Stepping on the gas for science . . . and fun

Low-fuel car back at Sultan

THE NAVY'S project to develop a vehicle of world-beating low fuel consumption has returned to HMS Sultan.

The tiny, single-seat three-wheeler was built at the School of Marine Engineering as the RN entry in an annual competition sponsored by Shell UK and held at Silverstone race track.

Ten years ago the project was taken over by the RN Engineering College at Manadon when the team manager, Lt Cdr Chris Barnes was re-appointed there. With the closure of Manadon the car, whose performance has steadily increased to 2,096 miles per gallon, has returned to its original home 175 miles away (or just two-thirds of a pint of petrol if the vehicle had got there under its own power).



The current version of the car competed at Silverstone last July, coming 16th in a field of 93 entries, and was fourth among British teams taking part. Hopes are high that it will do even better in next year's event.

Even greater fuel-defying feats are expected in the future from the Navy's low mpg car which appeared at Silverstone with Lt Cdr Chris Barnes of RNEC Manadon and (right) Lt Malcolm Parkin of HMS Sultan.



. . . and Morgans rally to the Flag

Accustomed to being in the driving seat, Flag Officer Plymouth, Vice Admiral Sir Roy Newman, tries a 60-year-old, three-wheel Morgan sports car for size. Accompanied by Cdr Maurice Cook, the admiral's chance to get behind the wheel came when more than 30 classic cars were mustered outside Admiralty House for a Morgan Club rally.



●Exercises in the Gulf – HMS Gloucester with the Kuwaiti fast attack vessel Al Sanbouk.

Gulf ships spell out a warning

AMID heightened tension through political defections from Iraq, HMS Gloucester has been taking part in multinational exercises seen widely as aiming to deter any aggression by Saddam Hussein.

While US forces were holding exercises ashore, the Type 42 destroyer embarked Kuwait's Chief of Staff, Maj Gen Ali Al Moomin and the commander of the air force, Brig Saber Al Suwaidan, for an air defence exercise with Kuwaiti F-18 aircraft.

Co-operation

In a positive display of bi-lateral co-operation the jets made simulated attacks on the ship under the eyes of the allied top-brass.

Earlier, after a visit to Kuwait City, Gloucester conducted naval exercises

with the Kuwaiti fast attack vessel Al Sanbouk. More visits to Kuwait and naval exercises were conducted in September.

**NAVY
DAYS
1996**

PORTSMOUTH Navy Days next year will be held on May 25, 26 and 27.



It's a wind up

THE NAVY'S ability to react to a major crisis will be put to the test at HMS Collingwood at the end of the month.

Naval Support Command's plans to build up the Fleet and its aircraft, weapon systems, infrastructure and manpower at short notice will be scrutinised in Exercise Wind Up from October 31 to November 1.

All departments of NSC are involved, with 50 delegates attending the two-day event and further backing from C-in-C Fleet and the Procurement Executive.

The wargame scenario will be based on an Article V incursion of NATO territory and the speed with which the Navy can respond.

First into Slovenia

HMS BOXER has become the first ship to visit Slovenia since the country gained its independence four years ago.

The frigate's three-day visit to the port of Koper resulted from an invitation from Slovenia's Minister of Defence when he called on Britain's Defence Secretary earlier this year.

During the ship's stay, her commanding officer welcomed on board the Slovenian President, Milan Kucan, Prime Minister Janez Drnovsek, and key cabinet members.

Boxer is due to return to Plymouth next month after a six-month deployment to the Adriatic in support of the UN embargo.

●HMS Boxer enters Koper to a 21 gun salute.



King Carl calls in

KING CARL Gustav of Sweden paid a 48-hour visit to the UK last month in his capacity as an honorary admiral.

After a meeting with Defence Secretary Michael Portillo and lunch with the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Jock Slater, in London he travelled down to join the Royal Marines at Poole – from where he had a rough ride to Portsmouth in a rigid raider for dinner on board HMS Victory hosted by the Second Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Michael Boyce.

The next day the king flew out to join the Type 23 frigate HMS Northumberland at sea in the Portland exercise areas.

●King Carl Gustav is met at King's Stairs by the Flag Officer Portsmouth, Rear Admiral Neil Rankin.

Brave makes the most of it

KEEPING herself in the headlines has won for HMS Brave the 1995 Desmond Wettern Fleet Award. Inaugurated in memory of the national journalist, the trophy is presented annually to the ship or naval air squadron which has done most to project a positive image of the Royal Navy.

Brave is judged to have made full use of her deployment to the Adriatic and has made the most of less obvious news stories. She has also developed strong links with the Kent media and Plymouth's Sunday Independent.

Second place has been taken by 845 Naval Air Squadron for continuing to achieve good coverage in the former Yugoslavia. Third place goes to 42 Commando Royal Marines for its work with the Armagh news media while on deployment in Northern Ireland.

The trophy takes the form of a crystal decanter which has to be kept full and which is mounted on a plinth of oak from HMS Victory.

Taken in charge

AT THE END of her longest-ever overnight sea passage HMS Charger was called to assist a diving boat drifting off Great Ormes Head.

The Liverpool University RN Unit's Archer Class patrol craft, returning from Penzance after a seven-week summer deployment, found the Dee V's engine had suffered a catastrophic electrical failure.

After recovering its five crew on board, Charger took it in tow towards the North Wales coast before handing over to Llandudno lifeboat.

Drafty... Promotion and Advancement Office

WORK in the Promotion and Advancement Office (D6 Section) is varied, interesting and not always pleasant.

The Promotions Office holds 11,000 files on petty officers and above, while the Advancement Office, not to be outdone, maintains 149 different rosters involving almost 8,000 individuals.

Although the main query to the Advancement Office from divisional officers and senior ratings is: "Where is my man or woman on the roster?" both offices fulfil other functions. Changes to the rules and regulations in BR 1066 are passed to D6's organisation for comment and we are frequently involved in staffing complaints and representations.

Divisional officers and senior ratings are encouraged to ring or write to us if they are confronted with complex advancement or promotional issues.

A telephone call early on can prevent much detailed and complicated staff work later on in the process when the outcome for the individual concerned will not always be favourable.

Numbers

A word about numbers. DNM gives us the authorised numbers and based on these all advancement and promotion vacancies are calculated. The year's cycle of promotion boards continues with CPO selection boards beginning September 25.

The splitting up of the General Service Weapon Engineering Drafting Section and its incorporation into the Warfare and Operations Drafting Section and the General Service Engineering Drafting Section has been reflected by some reorganisation within the Promotions Office to mirror this change.

Weapon engineering promotion boards have now been combined in the same week with the

Early warning can make all the difference



"Nobody here - they must have heard you were coming!"

warfare promotion boards for selection to both CPO and WO. The WE ratings' interests are being well guarded by the contin-

uation of separate boards for them within this structure with General Service and Submarine WE officers being chairman or

members of these boards as appropriate. The CCWEAQ selection board continues to be held separately in November.

THE TEAM

Promotions/Advancement/2OE	Lt Cdr Jane Davies 2181
Redundancy Officer	WOWTR David Walker 2383
Promotions/2OE Office.....	POWTR Eugene Hickey 2383
Centre Desk.....	Nick Deacon 2382
WEA, MEA, ME LWTR.....	LWWTR Doreen Towers 2382
WE, WARFARE.....	LWTR Kev Evans 2458
FAA, REG, PT.....	LWWTR Coral McGowan 2498
S&S, MED.....	CPOWTR Gary Bower 2498
I/C Advancement Office.....	LWTR Tansy Lee 2498
Section 1.....	LWWTR Sue Rodwell 2498
Section 2.....	

Taking the rough with the smooth

THE UNPLEASANT task mentioned on this page was the 1995/96 redundancy programme, the selections for which were announced on July 7.

The impact for individuals selected for redundancy as laid down in DCI RN 3/95 paragraph 35 is that individuals are not eligible for further promotion or advancement after July 1, 1995.

This includes promotion by time advancement (including artificers), selection, achievement by roster and readvancement following disrating/reversion but ratings/other ranks may be confirmed in rate or rank where eligible.

Those selected for redundancy will not be put on higher training courses.

They won't be eligible for local acting advancement/promotion to acting rank but if they occupy a post which justifies its retention, they may retain any local acting rate/local acting rank already held.

The future

Those first members of the warfare branch who are now close to completing their LOM course might be interested to learn that the issue of B13s can be expected from this Autumn.

This will be a gradual process as the first implementing ship 'crews-up'.

There won't be a flood of B13s because, for every other branch, advancement can only be authorised when there is a vacancy for the next higher rate.

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It's slow, but it's still happening

PROMOTION and advancement continues to be seen by many as being slow and while it is certainly slower now than seven years ago, it is still happening.

One of the main questions posed to us and one of continuing misunderstanding results from the belief that non-seagoing females compete with seagoers for promotion and advancement.

This is not true, separate advancement rosters continue to exist for both populations and promotion from petty officer to CPO and from CPO to WO is based on the requirement for both categories. So the calculations for vacancies and boarding for the seagoers and non-seagoers are made separately.

Where there is either no requirement any longer for warrant officers in some of the non-

seagoing branches or vacancies for these individuals, the promotion board members are advised that if they cannot fill all the seagoing promotions with suitable candidates, they should consider shore service ratings, if of course, they are suitable for promotion.

Competitive

This has already happened but since we promote to a finite requirement promotions are necessarily demand led and if a vacancy does not exist because the bearing equals or exceeds the requirement then the promotion simply doesn't happen.

This applies equally to the seagoer as to the non-seagoer. Advancement to PO and promotion to CPO is highly competitive and many excellent candidates are not selected.



"Sorry - full up. There'll be another one along if you're lucky!"

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Changes ahead for junior ratings

Looking further down the road the Independent Review recommended that the method by which junior ratings are advanced should be replaced by a more meritorious system.

It is too early to say exactly what might replace the time honoured advancement system but for those of you still in the Royal Navy over the next few years a change is bound to occur. Next year's article might have more to say about the subject...



Ships of the Royal Navy

No. 479



Facts & figures

Builder: Yarrow Shipbuilders Ltd. Launched: 1983. Commissioned: July 4, 1986. Length: 148m. Beam: 14.7m. Displacement: 4,850 tonnes. Speed: 30 knots. Ship's company: 270. Armament: 4 Exocet surface-to-surface missiles; 2 SeaWolf surface-to-air missile systems; 2 twin 30mm close-range guns; 2 20mm close-range guns; 2 triple tubes for ASW torpedoes; 3ins missile-decoy rockets. Aircraft: Two Lynx multi-role helicopters or one Sea King anti-submarine helicopter. Sensors: surveillance and navigation radars; IFF (Identification Friend or Foe) and ECM (Electronic Counter Measures); passive and active sonars. Engines: 2 Rolls-Royce Spey gas turbines for high speed; 2 Rolls-Royce Tyne gas turbines for cruising. Gearbox: David Brown non-reversing gearboxes and controllable-pitch propellers. Generators: 4 1MW electricity generators powered by 4 Paxman Ventura diesels.

POSTCARDS of Ships of the Royal Navy are available at 65p each (minimum order £1.95) from Navy News, HMS Nelson, Portsmouth PO1 3HH. An order for 12 cards is priced £7 and a standing order for the supply of each of 12 cards on publication may be arranged on receipt of £10.50, or £12.50 overseas. Prices include postage and packing, and postcards will be dispatched on receipt of stamps, postal order, cheque or credit card details. Our postcard series began in 1956.



Service through 400 years

FIRST of the nine Royal Navy ships to bear the name Brave was a vessel of 160 tons hired in 1588 to fight against the Spanish Armada, for which she was awarded a battle honour.

In 1596 she took part in an expedition against Cadiz and collected a second honour.

A 154-ton, three-gun vessel followed in 1747. *Xébec* was captured from the French at Lisbon and renamed Brave.

Another captured vessel took on the name in 1796 - this time a Dutch fifth rate which had been called *Braave*. This 42-gun ship earned the battle honour Madagascar 1796 for her part in the destruction of the French settlement at Foul Point.

Fourth HMS Brave was a 12-gun lugger hired in 1798 to serve in the Channel Islands Flotilla. She sank the following year following a collision off Beachy Head, but her crew was saved.

Formidable

The fifth HMS Brave was a third rate of 2,249 tons, armed with 94 guns. She was captured from the French after Trafalgar and her name changed from *Formidable*. In 1808 she was converted to a prison ship and she was eventually broken up in 1826.

Another third rate captured from the French in the Caribbean in 1806 retained her original name, Brave. Just weeks later she was lost off the Azores in bad weather.

Launched at Birkenhead in 1856, the seventh Brave was a gunboat, but she was never completed for sea and was broken up at Portsmouth in 1869.

Predecessor to the present HMS Brave was an Algerine-class minesweeper, launched at Blyth in 1942. Based at Malta, she operated in the Mediterranean, winning the battle honour South of France 1944. In 1951, renamed HMS Satellite, she became drillship to RNVR Tyne. She was scrapped in 1959.

Today's frigate added the battle honour Kuwait 1991 to HMS Brave's proud total.

BRAVE WARRIOR

DURING the past 12 months HMS Brave has been in the forefront both operationally and in the public eye, and the excellence of this Type 22 (Batch 2) frigate's public relations work has earned her the Desmond Wetherill Fleet Award (see page 3).

She has been involved in Operation Grapple, supporting troops ashore in the former Yugoslavia as part of the UK Task Group. A highlight of this patrol for HMS Brave was her entry into the Croatian port of Split - she was the first warship of any nation to visit the city since hostilities began.

Whilst away, the frigate received a number of VIP guests and was widely commended. At each port she visited representatives of the ship made their way to local British war cemeteries to pay their respects to the men and women interred there who had given their lives during the Second World War.

A golden opportunity was taken by Brave when she sailed to the South of France to commemorate the actions of one of her predecessors in the name. The eighth HMS Brave, an Algerine-class minesweeper, took part in Operation Dragoon, the liberation of the region in 1944. Many dignitaries turned out for the review marking the anniversary, with Lt Cdr The Duke of York representing the UK.

Electrical

There was extra reason to celebrate for several members of the ship's company on Brave's return to Devonport. Among the prizes distributed from the ship's raffle were two Vauxhall cars, a £2,000 holiday and £5,000 worth of electrical goods. Money was also raised during the deployment for one of Brave's affiliated organisations, St Luke's Hospice, Plymouth, and a cheque for £1,500 was handed over.

A ship's maintenance period - plus a solitary day of assisted

maintenance - followed before HMS Brave was back on active duty, carrying out towed array operations in the Atlantic. Hard on this work she took on the task of providing a platform for fleet navigation training and for the training of principal warfare officers and Royal Naval Reserve personnel at sea.

The much-awaited assisted maintenance period took place before further navigation training and summer leave, on her return from which HMS Brave became one of the first ships to undergo operational sea training from Flag Officer Sea Training's new home at Plymouth.

Caribbean

Next month Brave will deploy to the Caribbean for a stint as West Indies Guardship and she is expected to be away for over seven months.

As a "stretched" Type 22 frigate HMS Brave is some 17 metres longer than her predecessors. Launched in November 1983 by Lady Bryson, wife of the then Controller of the Navy, Admiral Sir Lindsay Bryson, she was fitted out by Yarrow Shipbuilders.

Some of the ship's extra length goes into her dramatic bow rake, which provides faster and cleaner lines. She can achieve a speed of up to 30 knots and remain stable in high seas.

HMS Brave was Fleet trials-ship for the Rolls-Royce Spey gas turbine engine and is the only Type 22 to be so fitted. The others have Rolls-Royce Olympus engines, the maritime version of the engines used by Concorde. For lower power HMS Brave uses a pair of Rolls-Royce Tyne gas turbines. Power is transmitted through two shafts to controllable pitch propellers.

This arrangement allows the ship to be made ready to sail at short notice, while also providing a fast but economical cruising speed and a high maximum power output.

Brave is also fitted with four Paxman Ventura diesels, each driving a 1MW GEC electric generator. The electric power these generate supplies the needs of weapons, radars, communications

equipment, pumps, fans, galleys and domestic lighting.

HMS Brave's main weapon against surface threats is the Exocet missile. She has two twin Exocet surface-to-surface missile launchers forward of the bridge. For self-defence she is equipped with the highly successful SeaWolf surface-to-air missile system, fitted both forward and aft.

Other weapons include a triple-barrelled anti-submarine torpedo launching system each side of the boat deck, plus 30mm and 20mm gun mountings. The weapons are backed up by a comprehensive fit of sensors, counter-measures and decoys.

HMS Brave can carry one or

two Lynx multi-role helicopters or one Sea King anti-submarine helicopter.

To assist her CO in controlling all the weapons at his disposal, HMS Brave is fitted with a new generation of operations room equipment - the Computer Assisted Command System.

Picture

This collects data from the various sensors and presents a clear picture of the threat facing the vessel, enabling the captain to fight the ship more effectively.

HMS Brave saw action in the Gulf War in 1991 and completed a major refit in December 1993.

She spent six months of 1994 on deployment in the Adriatic.

She and her powerful weapon fit are maintained to the peak and this potent unit of the Royal Navy incorporates many features born of experience gained during the Falklands War.

It is important that warships can remain at sea for lengthy periods without having to return to harbour to replenish. To this end, Brave carries over 25,000 items of stores to replace articles used or damaged.

The caterers can store food to provide a balanced diet for over 90 days without resupply; 30 to 40 days' supply of food is more usually carried.

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BY TUGS



Letters

Bedside scanners

AS A REGULAR reader of *Navy News* I was angry to find no mention of Service women in August's VJ supplement.

Twenty (later ten more) Chief Wren Wireless Telegraphists Special Operators were at the wireless station at Kranji, Singapore from March 1941 until the evacuation. The survivors all hold the Pacific Star.

We were evacuated to Colombo, but hastily moved with the Far East Fleet again when the Japs attacked Ceylon at Easter 1942. We finished up at Mombasa, doing the same code-breaking jobs.

As an officer I returned to India after service as a censor officer at Cowes for D-Day. I was one of two Wren officers who had the awful job of getting details of the atrocities committed by the Japs.

There were ten hospitals at Jallahalli, Bangalore and we had to sit by the bedsides of very ill and sometimes dying men. - P. Puttlick, Ross-on-Wye.

I WAS a member of the first overseas draft of 20 W/T 'Y' Wren Operators who sailed from the Clyde in March 1941 for service at Kranji.

It was a very happy station, though mixed bathing in the swimming pool and sharing taxis with sailors was forbidden. This rule was somewhat ineffective as there were several marriages later.

Following the Japanese air attacks on the island in December 1941, the Admiralty evacuated the station to Colombo after a signal from Admiral Layton suggested this should be done "in view of the irreplaceable nature of its personnel and material." This small category of Wrens saw quite a bit of action, being bombed in convoys and in Singapore and Colombo. Some were rescued from rafts and lifeboats after the Empress of Canada was sunk off West Africa in March, 1943. The second overseas draft of 12 W/Ts was lost in the SS *Aguila*, en route to Gibraltar in August 1941. - J. Dinwoodie, Norwich.

Brilliant on the box - a mixed performance

ON THE morning of August 31 I awoke with a strange sense of loss, a feeling I had not experienced for almost 50 years.

It was because the night before had seen the last episode of *HMS Brilliant* - and I knew I would not see Mickey Goble, Owen Gladwin, Andy Conway, Sharkey Ward, Lt Cdr Hawkins and Capt James Rapp and all the rest of those great guys who were our ship's company again. But I'll get over it as I have done a few times before.

Yes, the series was that good. - Ex Tel. RN, Hull.

CLOTHES such as those worn by *Brilliant*'s crew wouldn't have been given storage space on any ship I served in. We certainly wouldn't have been allowed to set foot ashore in such outrageous garb. - F.W. Kinsey, Cambridge.

IT WAS so obvious that everyone was playing to the cameras... I agree with the old saying "work hard, play hard" and would not deny that many sailors certainly enjoy themselves in foreign ports, but feel the whole way the programme was put over showed sailors to be people who have to get drunk ashore to have a good time. - LWTR G.R. Powell, HMS Bulldog.

TO THE WRENS of HMS *Brilliant* may I say this - be true to yourselves. Be what you want

to be and what I am sure you are perfectly capable of being.

The truth of the matter is, I suspect, that in all but a very few operational activities where sheer brute strength is required, your performance is as good as the men's, if not better - and they resent it. - E. Rich, Godalming.

Damp squib deja vu

IN 1934 I was a signaller on HMS *Danae* when we were called to Montserrat to assist if necessary, as some professor had forecast that the volcano would erupt at the next full moon.

On May 21 we anchored north of Plymouth. The usual official calls were made. Parties of seamen and Royal Marines landed. The RM Band came ashore each day to play.

The crew would venture daily to the sandy beach abreast of us - it was alive with land crabs - and some would organise sports days and horse riding.

On one occasion I was sent ashore with a heliograph with instructions to make contact. This I managed, thanks to my Ganges training - it was the only occasion I used one during my RN service.

At night you could see the occasional red glow and rising fumes from the mountain. Came the day, activities on shore were stopped and we raised steam in readiness.

Most of the crew were awake all night - only the island's mountains slept. So on May 30 we left to return to Bermuda.

- G.W. Edis, West Drayton, Middx.

Not for the first time

YOUR ARTICLE 'Nelson - all the gory details' (August issue) states that the ball that killed Nelson and the uniform he was wearing at the time are to be reunited for the first time since his death at an exhibition at the National Maritime Museum this month.

This is not so. At the British Orthopaedic Association's spring meeting at RNH Haslar in 1967 Surg Cdr (later Surg Rear Admiral) P.D.G. Pugh staged an exhibition of Nelson memorabilia which included the ball and coat and rightly claimed that this was the first time they had been together since the battle. C.T. Parsons, Market Drayton.

Wider net for club

IT HAS been stated on a TV programme that the Russian Convoys Club is exclusively composed of ex-Merchant Navy personnel.

This is not so. Our club (which is separate and distinct from the North Russia Club) is composed of ex-RN, ex-MN, ex-RAF, ex-Maritime Regiment personnel and several other members of that company which took the ships up to North Russian ports during 1941-45.

Our sole qualification is that a member has to have been part of a convoy to North Russia either as an escort (close or distant) or as a seafarer in a cargo carrying vessel which actually made the trip. - W.L. Harrison, South Cave, N. Humberside.

A stone in Chile

I READ that Monmouth RNA is to erect a memorial to the men who died when HMS *Monmouth* was lost at the battle of Coronel on 1 November 1914, saying in their appeal that no such memorial exists.

Well, there is such a memorial. On my last visit to Chile I travelled south to the mining and fishing town of Coronel to see the one erected by the Anglo-Chilean Society to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the battle.

It is in a small public garden which looks out to the scene of the battle and consists of a stone obelisk about five feet high against which rests an anchor.

- R. Thomson, Sandy, Beds.

Dog stories to haunt Hong Kong

I WAS serving in the King George V Class battleship HMS *Anson* when, after carrying out intensive exercises based on Sydney, we were ordered to proceed at speed to re-occupy Hong Kong.

There would be no back-up civilian administration to take over the immediate running of the Colony, which had to be covered by the Navy - and we did not know what state the place would be in.

On the way there we were pumped with pills and injections of every description and our faces went completely yellow.

It was an amazing scene of total destruction that we first saw as we arrived. All the navigational buoys and beacons had been sunk or destroyed and the minesweepers had to go in first to clear the harbour before we entered on 29 August.

That first evening our Royal Marines landed at Kowloon, occupied the Peninsula Hotel - and found themselves facing the Japanese. It was a tense situation, as although the majority of them had left taking all that they could with them, there were guards left at the POW camp at Stanley, with civilian internees, and at other places such as the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank. The Japanese were not used to having to surrender, so a great deal of diplomacy had to be used by all those in contact with them.

They had destroyed or looted everything and anything - even some plumbing had been converted so that sewage came out of fresh water taps.

I shall never forget the sight that met us at Stanley. The internees, men, women and children from other nationalities as well as British, had been subjected to absolute cruelty, fed like pigs from barrels of swill.

Emaciated

The Chinese suffered no less. From the emaciated bodies lying in the streets we saw that dogs had been used against them. In fact, we discovered kennels in the Peak where huge, brutal dogs were kept all day, starved of food.

At night they had been brought down to Victoria and let go amongst those who had not obeyed the curfew.

They had been let loose from their kennels before we landed and we had to send out patrols to shoot them.

Before Christmas, liberty men were allowed ashore from HM ships and a perfect example of British sailors being the finest ambassadors abroad was shown in Hong Kong.

Instead of the sailors going for rides in rickshaws they got their owners to climb into their own vehicles and the sailors got between the shafts and had races up and down the main streets - to the delight of multitudes of onlookers. - Lt Cdr J.V. Haddock, Dartmouth.

● Royal Marines from HMS *Anson* round up Japanese officers for questioning. Third from the right is Lt Col Kanazawa, head of the Gendarmerie at Kowloon.

Last pup of seven



MY NAME is 'Tamar'. I'm just 14 months old. I was born on a building site on Stonecutter's Island, Hong Kong and am the only surviving puppy out of seven.

I have since been adopted by HMS *Tamar*. Unfortunately, when the Chinese take over in 1997 I shall be homeless again.

I'm friendly, affectionate, don't eat THAT much and love children. A kind lady has offered to take me and give me a proper home when she leaves Hong Kong at the end of the year, but the flight cost and vet fees have made that near impossible.

A friend suggested I write to *Navy News* for help, so here goes - any amount, however small, will help towards giving me a home with a lovely family.

(Donations made payable to Home for Tamar Fund HMG 1109 may be sent to LA(Phot) Dave Trish, Main Gate, HMS *Tamar*, BFP01)

LETTERS to the Editor should always be accompanied by the correspondent's name and address, not necessarily for publication.



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Didn't we have fun!



STAFF of the Navy's home of physical training and sport, HMS Temeraire, tested the pulling power of tots when they visited Hulsea Naval Community Centre. They were there to help Naval Personnel Families Service run an It's a Knockout-style competition - part of the summer playscheme which ran for five weeks during the school holidays.

Attempting to persuade the kiddies to take the strain are CPO(FS) Taff Jones, CPOPT Barry Wills, CPOPT George Rowcroft and Mr Gregg Hind.



Face painted and suitably T-shirted, Harriet Damen makes the most of her day on board HMS Lancaster.

MORE than 70 children were among the guests to embark in HMS Lancaster for a families day at sea. A running commentary was broadcast as the Type 23 frigate sailed down the Hamoaze and passed the breakwater.

During the day there were a number of demonstrations - including firefighting, and a man overboard exercise. The ship's sea boat was launched, and a Sea King helicopter and Hawk and Falcon aircraft gave an aerial display. All this was topped off with a superb barbecue lunch.

Creche

In only the second exercise of its kind, the Plymouth-based RN pre-school playgroup staff set up a creche in the helicopter hangar and it proved hugely popular.

Playgroup co-ordinator Mrs Patricia Whiteley, who was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours, and eight of her staff brought along a bouncy castle, ball pool and table-top toys. They were also accompanied by Lester, Man of Magic.

All worked together to entertain the children throughout the day - including a period when the ship's speed was taken up to 27 knots to demonstrate her abil-

ity to manoeuvre at speed.

Patricia has worked for the Naval community organisation in Plymouth for nearly a quarter of a century, first running a playgroup in the sitting room of her Plymstock married quarter.



Mrs Patricia Whiteley

Since 1985, as co-ordinator, she has been responsible for administering nine playgroups, catering for some 350 pre-school Service children each week.



Family Life



RANGING in age from five to 15, 81 youngsters took part in the fourth HMS Dryad Juniors Festival, sponsored by Portsmouth RN and RM Coarse Angling Association. And with Dryad Lake stocked with carp weighing an average 3lbs the competitors had a great day's sport.

The juniors represented half a dozen angling clubs in the south, plus two tackle

shops. All these supplied prizes, which were presented by the First Lieutenant of HMS Dryad, Lt Cdr Peter Bailey.

Portsmouth RN & RMCAA comprises serving and retired members of the Senior Service. All its juniors are the children of members. The 1995 junior champions are as follows: 13 and under, Aaron Davison (8); over 13 years, Mike Evans (15).

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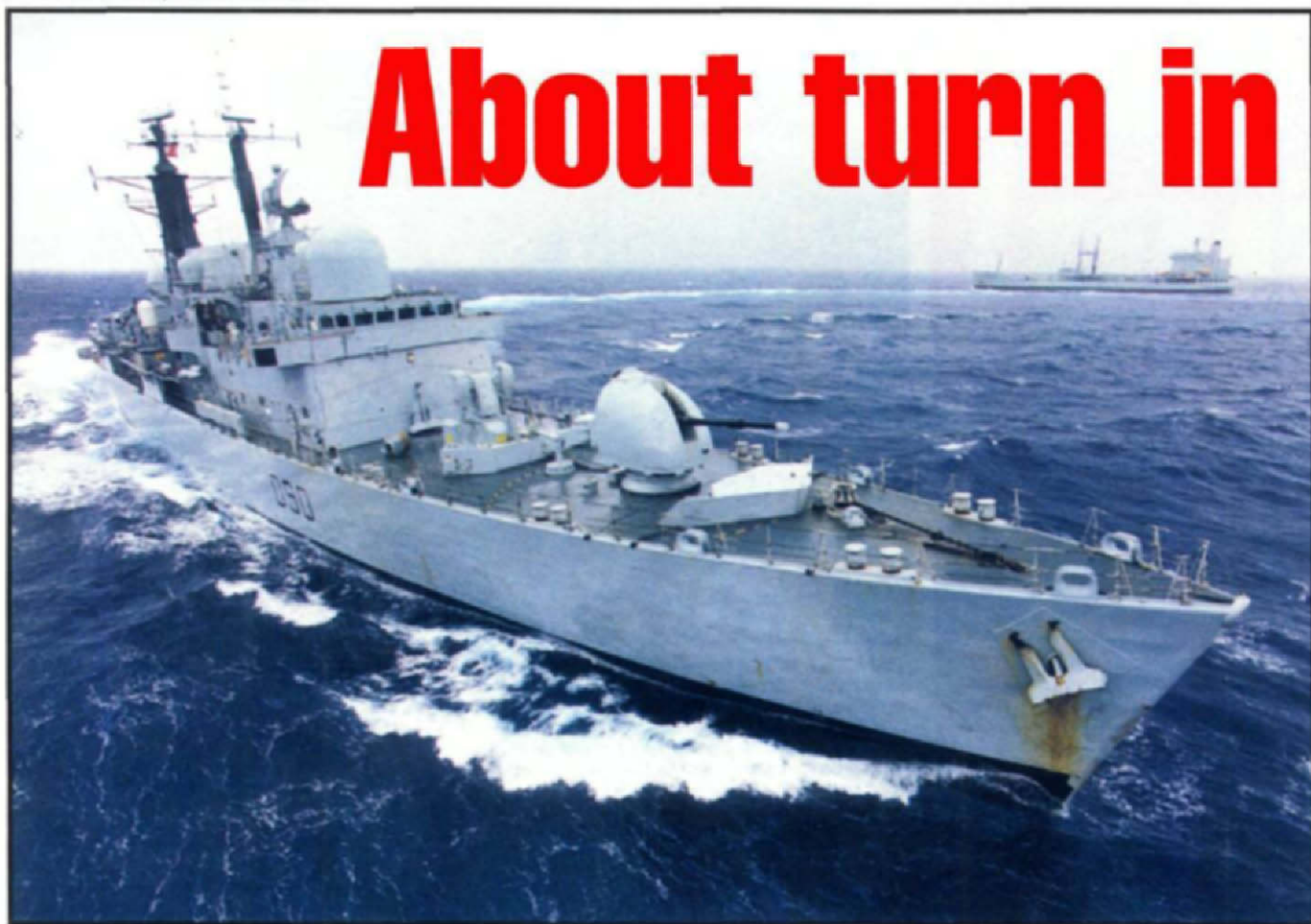
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THE FORCE IN FORCES' INSURANCE

About turn in the wake of Luis



Marines called to hurricane islands

Evacuation camps for the volcano-threatened population of Montserrat were being set up on nearby Antigua by 112 men and women of the Commando Logistics Regiment Royal Marines when Hurricane Luis ripped into them.

At the insistence of the US Navy, whose facility they were using, the 'Loggies' spent 36 hours in a storm shelter – during which most of the roof was torn off.

Later medical personnel were sent to help staff at the hospital at Holberton, which had been severely hit. Most of the roof and one wall had been blown away and all the wards were flooded.

Other groups helped clear roads blocked with fallen trees and power cables – and restore the Montserrat evacuation centre.

Meanwhile 42 'M' Coy, completing their task in support of the civil authorities in Montserrat, were despatched to help out in Anguilla.

Getaway car

Tasks carried out by the Marines with the Montserrat Police included vehicle control point duty to control the number of people going in and out of the capital of Plymouth after it had been evacuated for safety reasons and mobile patrols during the nightly curfew.

They also manned the power station providing electricity for the scientific equipment monitoring the volcano's activity. It had been predicted that only a two minute warning could be given to the islanders should an eruption occur and the brief to the men was to sound the alarm for one minute.

A car provided for a quick getaway was constantly run up and checked....

● **Above:** West Indies Guardship HMS Southampton turns north for hurricane-torn Anguilla, followed by her support ship RFA Oakleaf.
● **Below:** PO Tony Copley at work re-roofing the island's police station.
● **Bottom:** CPO Pete Matthews comforts 101-year-old former teacher Helen Peters in the hurricane shelter at Blades School, Montserrat.



HMS SOUTHAMPTON spent much of last month bringing relief to the Caribbean island of Anguilla, devastated by Hurricane Luis.

Forced south from volcano-threatened Montserrat to avoid the worst of the 120 knot winds she was first called to rescue 13 Venezuelan coastguards stationed on the tiny atoll of Los Aves.

The call for help came via US Forces and, conditions in the pitch darkness being too extreme for a seaborne evacuation, they were taken off in the ship's Lynx helicopter piloted by Lt Rick Anderson. Later they were disembarked by boat to a Venezuelan warship.

As reports came in of hurricane damage across the lesser Antilles, including St Maarten, Antigua, Barbuda and St Kitts, Southampton steamed back north ready to assist wherever necessary as Luis took a direct line through Barbuda and slammed into Anguilla.

There the Type 42 destroyer found all essential services had been wrecked – power and communication lines were unusable, low-lying parts of the island were under several feet of water and half the buildings' roofs were badly damaged.

Coastal vessels and yachts were washed up on the shore, cars overturned – and the few light aircraft which had been unable to leave the island were strewn across the airport, which was completely out of action.

Amazingly, there were no casualties – but Southampton's arrival was timely and reassuring, her ship's company undertaking first damage assessment and planning operations less than 12 hours after the hurricane had passed over. Her support ship RFA Oakleaf joined her soon afterwards.

Governor Alan Shave had earlier been airlifted to the ship in her Lynx helicopter to discuss priority help projects with commanding officer Cdr Keith Winstanley.

Swamp conditions

Power generation and the re-establishment of communications came first, the landing of 42 RN support staff speeding up the process with Marine and Weapons Engineers taking the lead.

Much had been achieved by the end of the first day. Within 48 hours Radio Anguilla was back on the air thanks to S/Lt Rob Fulford, CCWEA Mark Lovibond and CPWEA Ski Wislawski and their team, who reconnected and stabilised a 100 ft aerial in swamp conditions, up to their knees in water, and repaired the transmitter.

"Radio Anguilla now reaches more islands in the Caribbean than it did before Hurricane Luis!" Lt Cdr Iain Upton informs Navy News.

Meanwhile at the airport CWEM(R) Terry Hutchins, LWEM Dave Wilkie, LWEM Daisy Adams and WEMs Lee Berrecloth, Az Hughes and Taff Davies repaired the control tower and airport building aerials.

CCMEA George Butler and CPOMEAs Dave Fleming, Dusty Hare and Dennis Wheatland led the power team, drying out the power station's emergency generator and running up innumerable portable generators to restore essential services such as runway lighting as soon as possible.

Over the next eight days an average of 75 men from HMS Southampton were ashore each day, delivered by the Searider crews as "beachmaster" LS(EW) Bill Pitt co-ordinated jetty movements.

The emergency operations centre was manned by a mixture of Anguillian and RN staff, the relief effort co-ordinated by the First Lieutenant, Lt Cdr Rob Drewett and Lt Cdr Guy Haywood.



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Helping Hands

HMS CUMBERLAND raised £1,700 for children with speech and language problems during her latest six-month Adriatic deployment.

Events on board the Devonport-based Type 22 frigate included theme nights, horse racing, raffles and charity auctions.

Members of the ship's company presented the money to the Seventrees speech therapy clinic in Plymouth.

MORE than 8,000 people enjoyed HMS Sultan's summer show, and helped to raise £2,500 for the King George's Fund for Sailors.

A highlight of the two-day event was the return of a traditional steam rally which attracted 20 steam driven vehicles.

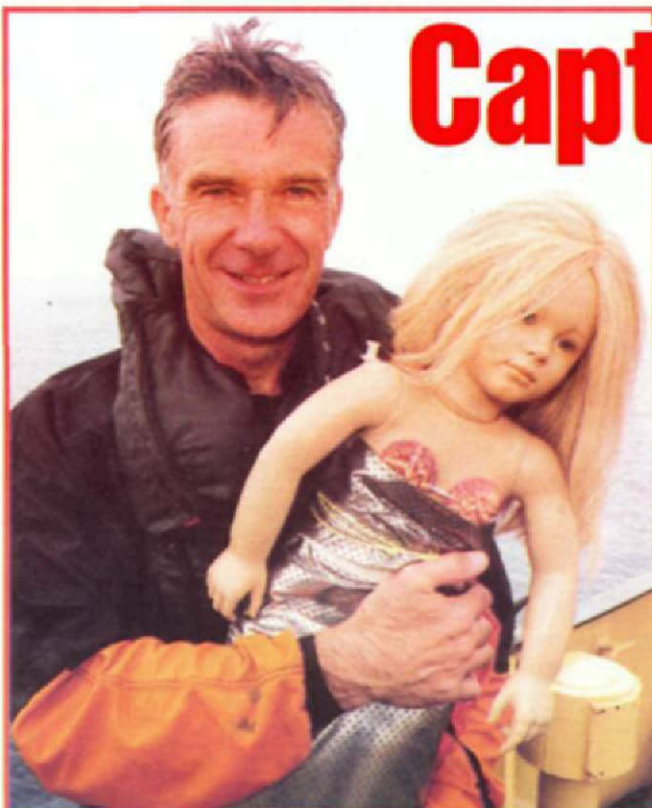
A RALLY and sprint meeting held my motor enthusiasts at HMS Daedalus is providing new drive for disabled sportsmen and women in Fareham.

The event was organised by the RN Motor Sports Association and raised £1,110 for Fareham and District Sports Association for the Disabled who are using the money for facilities and equipment.

A TEAM of sailors from HMS Collingwood accepted a challenge to carry a wheelchair-bound MS sufferer over mountains, rivers and bog in Snowdonia to raise public awareness of the debilitating illness.

The event at the National Mountain Training Centre at Blas Y Brenin tested the group's mental and physical determination and leadership skills and raised £783 for the MS therapy centre in Portsmouth.

THE CREW of HM Submarine Triumph raised £300 for a baby monitor at the childrens ward at Derriford Hospital. S/Lt Jason Horne and LS Nigel Tickel presented the money.



Taking the plunge: Culdrose's CO, Capt Peter Fish

Captain falls for Mermaid

RNAS CULDROSE'S commanding officer, Captain Peter Fish, fulfilled a lifetime ambition when he parachuted into Falmouth Bay.

The Captain was one of the first to jump from a Hercules aircraft at 2,000ft, having completing a training course at RAF Brize Norton.

Great experience

"It was a great experience," said Capt Fish. "It is something that I have always wanted to do and I am delighted to have been given the opportunity."

The parachute jump raised more than £2,000 for the Mermaid Appeal for breast cancer sufferers.

HMS Manchester's ship's company raised £3,650 while in the Gulf for a charity closer to home than most.

The money was donated to LS(R) JS French whose son Christopher suffers from Duchenne muscular dystrophy. The cash will pay for a family holiday at Florida's Disneyworld.

Fund-raising events included a sponsored swim by LS(M) Bob Willis and a sponsored shave by LS(S) Dylan Lane.

OVER 400 people turned out for HMS Nelson's families day where attractions included RM musicians, stalls, a bouncy castle and an it's a Knock-Out competition.

The event raised over £1,000 for the Childrens Hospice Appeal.

CYCLISTS from HMS London are seeking sponsorship and support for a 770-mile ride from Santander in Northern Spain to Gibraltar in aid of cancer research.

If you can help, contact POMEM Pilkington, HMS London, BFPO 328.

NAVY Press Officer Lt Cdr Damian Belgeonne hopes to have raised £3,000 in the ultimate charity drive - a rally to Monte Carlo.

He drove a sponsored 16v Renault Laguna with co-driver Catherine McBride and finished seventh overall. Proceeds go towards the Chemical Dependency Centre for people suffering from the effects of drug and alcohol abuse.

The rally began in London with the first cars flagged away by the Duchess of York.

Three other naval officers took part in the rally, Cdr Jonathan Dingle, Lt Cdr Steve Malcolm and Lt Cdr Duncan Matthews.

DISABLED youngsters staying at the Winged Fellowship Trust Holiday Centre spent a day with the Royal Navy.

They took a boat trip around Portsmouth Harbour and spent an afternoon in the swimming pool at HMS Collingwood, with friends, carers and relatives joining the fun.

Balloons go up over Richmond



FALKLANDS war veteran Simon Weston launched 2,000 sponsored balloons from HMS Richmond to mark the end of the Second World War.

The balloons carried messages from supporters of the Royal Star & Garter Home for disabled sailors, soldiers and airmen in Richmond, Surrey, who had pledged to give almost £100,000 towards the home's running costs.

Supporter

Mr Weston (left) overcame terrible injuries sustained in the bombing of the RFA Sir Galahad by Argentine aircraft during the 1982 conflict, and has long been a supporter of the home.

Aid reaches Albania



PRECARIOUS mountain roads, curious customs officers and a broken-down minibus didn't stop a team of RN volunteers from getting supplies through to Albanian schoolchildren.

The team of ten, led by Lt Katja Samuel (above), took a 38-ton lorry full of desks, paint, glass, stationery and even a kitchen sink to the mountain village of Fushe-Arrez.

They spent six days at the school, working long hours to reglaze the windows, paint the classrooms, repair the roof and assemble large roller blackboards.

Conditions were difficult - the team slept in one room of the school which has no sanitation, an unreliable power supply and no piped water and lived on RN rations and bottled water.

The project was set up with the help of the Christian charity Light Force International which is based in Milton Keynes and

had already worked in Fushe-Arrez hospital.

The RN personnel came from HMS Sultan, Excellent, Daedalus, HMS Battleaxe and RNH Haslar. They were joined by the son of an Australian exchange officer and two commercial HGV drivers who volunteered to drive the truck.

Nursery

The team left more than 100 desks as well as toys and pictures for a nursery but the school still badly needs replastering, rewiring and a new roof.

Lt Samuel has already been asked about another trip and says: "I'm making no promises, but watch this space!"

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Cold showers can be life savers

A COLD SHOWER a day could help to save the life of anyone who may suddenly fall into the sea, a conference on survival has been told by an expert on naval medicine.

Surgeon Rear Admiral Frank Golden RN (retd) told delegates at Survival 95 that "cold shock" was a greater threat than hypothermia to anyone abruptly immersed in cold water. But a daily cold shower reduced the risk as the nerves in the skin adapted to the stimulus.

Heart disease

Cold shock, he said, was characterised by up to two minutes of uncontrolled, rapid breathing during which time it was impossible to hold one's breath. People who suddenly entered cold water were at risk of inhaling it and drowning long before their bodies cooled to hypothermic level.

If the victims were middle aged, unfit or suffered from heart disease or high blood pressure, they faced an additional risk of suffering a stroke.

Research at the Institute of Naval Medicine at Alverstoke had shown that even competent swimmers sank within minutes while attempting a similar task in water at five degrees C.

How Joe came back from the dead

THE 115th anniversary on September 12 of a relatively obscure battle in Egypt has revived interest in the graphic account of the campaign by an 18-year-old Royal Marine who "came back from the dead".

Extracts from the letters of Joseph Love of the RM Light Infantry were passed to *Navy News* by his grandson, Mr Peter Love. In them, Joe tells of his part in the Battle of Tel-el-Kebir which marked the end of a campaign to put down a revolt threatening the Suez Canal.

Bombarded

Hostilities opened with a bombardment of Alexandria by Royal Navy ironclads. Then, feinting an attack on the Nile delta, the British force under Gen Wolseley secretly moved to Ismailia and from there across the desert to Tel-el-Kebir.

Joe wrote home to his family that when Wolseley ordered a night attack "he begged that we would keep perfect silence... and the officers gave the word of

command as quietly as possible."

The task of steering the troops across the desert at night was given to a Royal Navy lieutenant who, without a luminous compass, navigated by the stars.

"We marched all night and just at the first break of day we got within 500 yds," wrote Joe. "Shots fell around us like hail... but thick as it was the order was given to advance, and every man advanced without the least thought of being shot."

"The order was given to fix bayonets and 'Charge!' As soon as they gave us

that order we all seemed to have the devil in us, for the bugle sounded the charge, we shouted with all our might and main, and on we swept."

"God knows, it was a terrible sight. The enemy took to their heels and we after them, cutting and shooting them down like a flock of sheep."

Two Marines officers were killed and a man close to Joe was injured: "It was a narrow squeak for me, for just as I moved my foot forward a shot

passed under my legs and struck him in the shin." Any wound was regarded by Joe as serious - writing of medical parades he complained: "If you are ill and go to the doctor you are treated like a pig, in fact you might just as well lay down and die."

Privations

The letters also give an insight into the privations suffered during the campaign - how the Marines depended on what rations they captured, and how bodies had to be cleared from the canal before drinking.

Disease was rife, and on October 10, Joe's parents received news from the Navy that he had died of enteric fever. Grief stricken, they nevertheless went to watch the Marines contingent march back to their Chatham barracks, in memory of their son.

There, to their surprise and joy they came face to face with Joe, alive and well and promoted to corporal.



Royal Marine Joe Love - in combat at Tel-el-Kebir.

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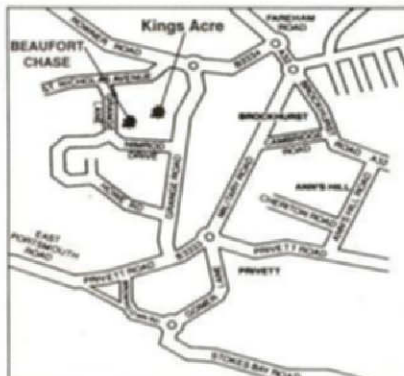
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Two under new flags

TWO long-serving ex-RN units have just started up business under new flags.

HMS Ocelot, the Oberon class conventional submarine that came out of service in 1991, received her first visitor at Chatham Historic Dockyard - Albert Hunt, from Maldstone, seen above (left) with one of the boat's tour guides, John Wanstall.

In 1962 Ocelot was the last warship built for the Royal Navy at Chatham, where her diesel engines were also designed.

Meanwhile HMS Andromeda, in 1967 the last Leander frigate to be built at Portsmouth and a veteran of the Falklands War, was commissioned into the Indian Navy at a ceremony at Devonport as INS Krishna (below).



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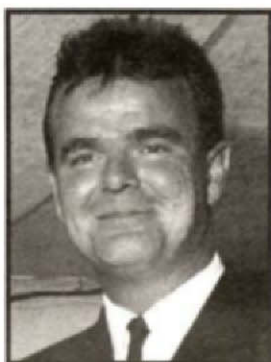
SWORD AWARD FOR TOP PWO

AS THE Senior Service's top principal warfare officer student in 1994, Lt Cdr Keith Muir has been presented with the Wilkinson Sword of Honour by Flag Officer Surface Flotilla, Vice Admiral John Brigstocke.

Keith joined the Royal Navy in 1980 as a Supplementary List seaman officer and his appointments have included instructor at the Navy's Fighter Control School at HMS Heron. He was transferred to the General List in 1985 and trained as an observer.

By 1991 Keith was back at Heron as a helicopter weapons instructor. He has also served in the aircraft carriers *Invincible* and *Ark Royal*.

Keith joined HMS Dryad in March 1993 for the PWO 97 Course, from which he graduated PWO (above water warfare), coming top of his course overall. He has now joined HMS Iron Duke as PWO(A).



Lt Cdr Keith Muir



Nat Gould VC autographs a presentation copy of his medal citation for the WO's 'and Senior Rates' Mess at HMS Drake.



People in the News



Capt Peter Fish signals "Ready for take-off" aboard the Boeing Stearman bi-plane.



VC at Drake

THE president, ex- PO Coxswain submariner Nat Gould VC, was guest of honour at the annual meeting of the Submarine Coxswains Association, held at HMS Drake.

Twenty-six serving RN coxswains joined 20 members of the association for the dinner, and other guests of honour were Commodore Paul Branscombe and Cdr Peter Payne-Hanlon.

Thrasher

Nat, now 80, won his Victoria Cross in 1942 when he was serving on board the submarine *Thrasher* in the Mediterranean. *Thrasher* attacked a ship north of Crete and was then heavily

counter-attacked. When she surfaced after dark an unexploded bomb was discovered in her casing.

Lt Peter Roberts, the First Lieutenant, and Nat volunteered to go on deck and remove the bomb. Once there they discovered a second device.

Aware that the submarine would have to dive immediately should it be detected by enemy forces, the two men coolly retrieved the bombs and dropped them over the side. Both won VCs.

CRUNCH TIME AT AIR DAY

CO of RN air station Culdrose, Capt Peter Fish, stepped into the breach when the Crunchie wing-walking display team found themselves without a wing-walker at the base's annual air day.

"I wanted to have a go and since this was my last Air Day as CO of Culdrose, I decided to take the opportunity when it was offered," said the gallant captain.

He was strapped into the safety harness and in position on top of the Boeing Stearman bi-plane in short order.

And he had no regrets. Safely back on land and bolstered by a warming cuppa, he said, "It was

an exhilarating experience and one which I will never forget."

● AEM Tristan Gale, serving at Culdrose, was commended by Flag Officer Naval Aviation, Rear Admiral Terry Loughran, for his quick response after spotting a fuel leak from one of 771 Naval Air Squadron's search and rescue helicopters. Tristan alerted the crew, who immediately shut down the *Sea King*.

IN BRIEF

AFTER 41 years with the Royal Marines band service Band C/Sgt Pete Yetman - its longest serving member - has retired. He believes he may also have been the longest serving member of the Marines corps as a whole. Pete will continue playing the cornet and trumpet and is also hoping to specialise in brass instrument repairs.

MEMBERS of HMS Liverpool's "Over 45 Club" proudly counted up their years before the mast on the homeward leg of the destroyer's seven-month Armilla deployment. Between the six of them they own to 278 years in the world, 180 spent serving the Royal Navy. The old timers are the CO, Capt Laurie Hopkins, supply officer Lt Cdr Pat Laycock, CHOPS(M) Tomo Thomson, Lt Cdr Paul Thomas, the marine engineer officer, CCWEA Buck Taylor and CRS

S/LT Keith Teasdale, a supply officer based at HMS Osprey, has been awarded the Hewlett Packard Sword of Excellence for being the year's best supply officer student.

Keith received the sword from Mr Andrew Gannon, of Hewlett Packard, whose visit to Osprey was enlivened by a trip to sea to witness one of the last Thursday War exercises to take place off Portland. Sea training has now moved to Plymouth.

He was accompanied by Rear Admiral Nicholas Wilkinson, Chief of Naval Supply, who had watched the presentation of the sword.

Nagasaki survivor enthralled audience



John Hinchliffe and Tom Humphries at Culdrose

HELD in a prisoner of war camp on an island off Nagasaki at the time the atomic bomb was dropped, ex-PO Tom Humphries vividly remembers the terrible noise and the mushroom cloud.

It was a moment he recalled for an enthralled audience of serving naval personnel during a visit to RN air station Culdrose.

Tom was accompanied on the visit by his friend, Padstow harbour master John Hinchliffe.

Now 87, Tom was taken prisoner by the Japanese after the

sinking of HMS *Exeter* in 1942.

When he arrived at the POW camp his journal was confiscated, but he later discovered it in a storeroom and, despite the risk, went back regularly to fill it in.

The journal is now to form the basis of a book about his wartime experiences.

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Prince's Trust leaders sought

NAVAL personnel are being sought to act as team leaders for development courses run by the Prince's Trust Volunteers - founded at the instigation of the Prince of Wales.

The two-month courses take place throughout the UK with the aim of building self-esteem and confidence in young participants. The annual number of PTV trainees is expected to rise from 2,000 to 6,000 within two years.

Reputation

The Services were approached by the Trust at an early stage because of their reputation for high-quality leadership.

Team leaders undertake secondments for a minimum 80 days - 20 days of training and course preparation followed by the 60-day course leadership. Volunteers are invited from among Regular and Reserve forces, cadet units and university units.

Leaders have ranged in rank from junior NCOs to junior officers. They can apply to work in areas nearest their homes.

Applications should be made in writing to The Services Liaison Officer, 8 Jockey's Fields, London WC1R 4BW (tel. 0171 430 0378 for more information).

DCI JS 74/95

NEW DIRECTION FOR DIVING UNITS

AREA Clearance Diving Units are to be restructured and will come under the control of C-in-C Fleet. The decision follows the Defence Costs Study measure which will abolish Area Flag Officer posts by April 1. It is they who at present control diving units.

When the new post of Captain Mine Warfare and Patrol Vessels, Diving and Fishery Protection (Captain MFP) comes into being on November 21, he will exercise delegated elements of the command function for the diving groups.

Replacing Commodore Mine Warfare, he will be responsible to Flag Officer Surface Flotilla and will lead on policy for mine warfare, diving and explosive ordnance disposal.

The Plymouth and Portsmouth Clearance Diving Units will become, respectively Southern Diving Unit 1 with its HQ at Devonport, and Southern Diving Unit 2 based at the new RN Diving HQ at Horsea Island, Portsmouth.

SDU 1 will be responsible for the western region of the Southern area, while SDU 2 will cover the eastern region.

In Scotland the Clyde Submarine

Base CDU will become Northern Diving Unit 1 and will continue to operate from the base in support of the submarines there.

The Scotland, Northern England and Northern Ireland CDU will be renamed Northern Diving Unit 2 and will move from Rosyth to Faslane. There it will be responsible as a mobile team for clearance over the whole of Britain north of the Deehumber line.

Northern Diving Unit 3 will be formed in times of crisis or war.

The Portsmouth-based Fleet Diving Group has a world-wide role and will be based at Horsea Island

from November. It comprises Fleet Diving Unit 1 responsible for special operations, FDU 2 for general and some specialised tasks, and FDU 3 which is responsible for damage assessment, repair and underwater engineering.

FDU 4/5 would be formed in time of crisis or war and would include RNR personnel.

CINCFLEET will exercise operational command and control of all diving groups, tactical control being delegated to FOSNNI or Flag Officer Sea Training when needed.

DCI RN 181/95

Uniforms to meet a tall order

UNIFORMS for RN personnel are going up in size. The decision by the Defence Clothing and Textile Agency to produce, for the first time, off-the-peg garments for sailors of over 6ft reflects the theory that the average height of sailors has increased over the past 20-30 years.

Until now sailors over 6ft tall have endured the inconvenience of having to wait while uniform items were specially made for them - and the Service has had to pay the high cost of bespoke tailoring.

Now, clothing stores will carry additional sizes of blue and white trousers, jumpers, and cotton uniform vests for personnel measuring up to about 6ft 4ins. For instance, the largest blue-trouser size stocked will rise from a leg measurement of about 70cm to 85cm.

Surveys

"This is an interim measure aimed at reducing the level of special demands pending the outcome of a more comprehensive tri-Service review of garment sizing," said a spokesperson for the DCTA.

In 1988-90 the Institute of Naval Medicine at Alverstoke conducted a series of anthropometrical studies, measuring about 2,500 RN and RM personnel, including WRNS.

It is hoped to conduct a further series of surveys, beginning next year, which could confirm the theory that there is a trend towards bigger sailors.

Lt Karl Rich, heading the Institute's human factors work, said: "It has been discovered in the last 30 years that in the developed world there has been a general trend in secular growth (the average height of people) due to better nutrition and high-

er living standards."

However, it seems that humans are not likely to become a race of giants. Judy Aplin, head of anthropometry and aircrew equipment design at the Defence Research Agency, Farnborough, said that growth trends globally "are known to be very, very slow."

Earlier this year she completed an anthropometric survey not specifically concerned with height, but aimed at ensuring aircrew clothing sizes and design matched the needs of women as well as men. She measured just over 1,000 women from all three

Armed Services as well as some civilians to provide a military database.

"The prime requirement came from the RAF who now have women aircrew wearing clothing designed for men," she said. "It is particularly important that flying clothing fits properly as it has a life support role."

When ready the data will also be released to the Navy and the Army.

DCI RN 173/95

Order of the boot

NEW boots are to be issued for the crews of small boats.

They replace the yachting boots previously used only for sail training. The new items are longer and more durable and are sized to fit over the socks of immersion coveralls.

DCI RN 176-177/95

Rugby draw

APPLICATIONS to take part in the draw for tickets for international rugby matches at Twickenham should now be made to the Secretary of the RN Rugby Union by serving and retired naval personnel.

Stand seats at £33 and £28 are allocated for England's matches with South Africa (November 18), Western Samoa (December 16), Wales (February 3) and Ireland (March 16).

THIS regular feature gives general information about new Defence Council Instructions affecting conditions of service. In the event of action being taken the full original text should be studied.



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Farewell to 772 Squadron

AFTER more than 20 years of conducting operations from RN air station Portland, 772 Naval Air Squadron disbanded at the end of September.

Main role of 772 since 1974 was support of sea training, and the transfer of Flag Officer Sea Training to Plymouth removed the reason for the squadron's existence.

However, 772 became particularly involved in search and rescue on behalf of the Coastguard, answering 150 call-outs a year.

Importance of that role has been recognised, and the Department of Transport has contracted with Bristows to keep an SAR aircraft at Portland.

Formed at the outbreak of World War II, 772 NAS operated Swordfish floatplanes based initially at Portland for target towing, target marking and aerial photography.

In 1940 the squadron moved to Scotland and, later, Lancashire, flying a total of 16 different types of aircraft, including Fulmars, Hurricanes, Mosquitos, Wildcats and Seafires.

Disbanded in 1948, 772 was recommissioned 26 years later to take over the Portland training support role.

In latter years the squadron operated Sea King aircraft, and they will now be transferred for use by 848 NAS at RN air station Yeovilton and 845 NAS operating with the UN in Bosnia.

DCI announcement



Pay reviewers on voyage of discovery

SHOWING that the Armed Forces Pay Review Body is not taking a back seat, its members take a commanding view on the last visit – made to HM submarine Sceptre at sea off Plymouth.

The team has ranged far and wide to talk to officers and men in preparation for their recommendations on the next pay round. Other RN locations visited this year included HM ships Illustrious and Cumberland, 845 Naval Air Squadron in Bosnia and the Portsmouth shore base, HMS Excellent.

The rarely photographed AFPRB members are (l-r) Capt David Wines, now relieved as Deputy Director Naval Service Conditions (Pay) by Capt Mike Lane; Gp Capt Peter Hilling, Service Personnel Policy Directorate; Lt Cdr Neil Whittaker, HMS Sceptre's weapons engineer officer; Mr Tony Hughes of the Office of Manpower Economics; and Mr John Cox.

NEW WARNING OVER MALARIA

NEW orders on the prevention of malaria have been issued by the Royal Navy in the face of the disease's increasing resistance to treatment by drugs.

Fleet medical officers, in a revision of malarial policy, are stressing the need for the proper use of preventive drugs. They also emphasise the need to use insect repellent and to cover arms and legs to reduce the chance of mosquito bites.

"The incidence of malaria occurring in naval personnel is higher than necessary, and greater attention to preventive measures should reduce this," personnel are being told in an RN Temporary Memorandum.

If there was a possibility of members of a ship's company going ashore in a malarious region, they should take the standard pills which prevented the disease and which were available on board HM ships.

The pills should be taken a week before arrival at the first port of call and should continue for four weeks afterwards. "Failure to take anti-malarial tablets after leaving a malarious area is the commonest cause of late presentation with the disease."

Mosquito nets

High risk areas are listed as sub-Saharan Africa, South America and Oceania – particularly Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

The malaria parasite is spread by mosquitoes and is one of the major causes of death in the Third World. "In malarious areas, the wearing of long-sleeved shirts and long trousers – especially between dusk and dawn – will reduce the incidence of mosquito bites," states the memorandum.

Personnel sleeping ashore should sleep under mosquito nets, and standard insect repellent should be issued. Uniforms and plain clothes should be laundered according to regulations.

The new instructions point out that long-lasting insecticide can be sprayed on to the walls of buildings and impregnated into clothing. Jetties and docksides must be searched for mosquito breeding areas.

Seaborne landings 'more in focus'

THE NAVY has to be more ready to meet unexpected world events, says C-in-C Fleet in a new training video on amphibious warfare.

Describing the importance of amphibious actions in modern warfare, Admiral Sir Hugo White said: "If you look at the international situation, you've got a world in which the risks are no longer focused as they were in the East-West Cold War. We now have to be more ready for the unexpected and are increasingly in the business of crisis management."

"Therefore the Navy needs to change its shape slightly to focus more on supporting land operations from the sea and on power projection."

The half-hour video "Force from the Sea" is intended mainly for use by British Forces, particularly the Royal Marines. It is, however, available to the armed forces of other countries.

Graphics are widely used to accompany the narrative, while live action filming shows how it looks and feels to be in an amphibious landing.

Copies may be bought from Renate Foster of the SSVIC (tel 01494 878214).

BBC SUB REPLICA ON SHOW

A TV replica of part of the interior of a First World War submarine has been saved from scrapping and put on show in Portsmouth naval heritage area.

The mock-up of an E-class vessel was used in the first episode of BBC2's historical documentary series "Nautilus", and was destined to be scrapped.

Now it has been saved after the BBC were approached by the RN Submarine Museum at Gosport – where the TV production team carried out filming and research – and by Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust.

Low loader

The replica, measuring 42ft long and 18ft high, was transported from London on a low-loader.

● Ex-LS Eric Peaton (82), a survivor of HM submarine Shark, has had an inscribed bench made in memory of all submariners lost in World War II. Made of African hardwood, it stands facing the preserved submarine HMS Alliance and the Remembrance Stone at the RN Submarine Museum.

The Shark was sunk by German aircraft off Norway in 1940.

Tall ships concert

A GERMAN crowd of thousands was treated to the colourful ceremony of Beat Retreat by the Royal Marines Band Portsmouth when they played at Bremerhaven.

The 37 Marines musicians were among 100 international bands which took part in the three-day Tall Ships Festival at the North Sea port.

Celebrations were organised around the gathering of 245 sailing ships which had been escorted from Edinburgh by minehunters HMS Cromer and HMS Bridport.

During the festivities the Marines became the first RM band to play on board the German navy's sail training ship Gorch Fock.

Type 23 debut at Dartmouth

HMS NORTHUMBERLAND has laid claim to be the first Type 23 frigate to visit Dartmouth. Rear Admiral Peter Scourse, Director General Surface Ships, was embarked for the occasion, as was his Italian counterpart, Admiral Pisi.

The visit enabled young officer cadets from Britannia Royal Naval College to spend some time at sea in a modern warship.

To some extent it was a "home-coming" for the ship's commanding officer, Cdr Steven Bramley; the first lieutenant, Lt Cdr Mike Pearey; and the marine engineering officer, Lt Cdr Paul Dorey, who are all former senior divisional officers of the College's St Vincent Division.

Links were also forged with the local Royal Naval Association and Sea Cadet unit.

The warship's entry into the River Dart was the culmination of a series of tasks and visits in Norway and northern Britain.

After taking part in a Defence Industries Day in Bergen, the Northumberland visited Blyth and Berwick upon Tweed to reinforce her close association with her namesake county.

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Uniquely, the Society's interpretation of seafarers includes those past, present and future in both the Royal and Merchant Navy, as well as the fishing and offshore fleets.

The hero of Trafalgar was a supporter, Governor and beneficiary of The Marine Society. Isn't it time you considered following his example?



● Above: HMS Trenchant comes alongside her support ship RFA Diligence off Green Island.

● Below: Capt John Wells leads the BPF/EIF Veterans Parade at Edinburgh Place, Central.

Liberation remembered by veterans returning to Hong Kong

Trenchant gets in step at Tamar

HALFWAY through a six month deployment in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans, HMS Trenchant was the first major RN warship to visit Hong Kong for three years when she arrived to take part in the parade to mark the 50th anniversary of the liberation.

The ceremonial guard at the Cenotaph was exclusively drawn from the nuclear powered submarine's 120-man crew – and drill practice had posed obvious problems for the Officer of the Guard, S/Lt Chris Cook.

"Marching parties started back in May before we deployed from Devonport," he told *Navy News*. "But after that we had to take advantage of visits to Guam and Korea where jetties provided makeshift parade grounds."

On arrival in Hong Kong the men were put through their paces by HMS Tamar's Base Gunnery Officer Lt Nick Doyle – and after some intensive square-bashing proved themselves equal to the task.

As did over 120 RN veterans aged between 67 and 89 who earlier took part in the Fleet Veterans Parade at Edinburgh Place, many of whom as former members of the British Pacific and East Indies Fleets had already taken part in similar ceremonies at Singapore, Sydney and Canberra.

Many of them, too, had served in Admiral Harcourt's Task Force which re-established British sovereignty in Hong Kong on 30 August 1945.

In brilliant sunshine they mustered in front of City Hall, braving the heat and humidity of a Hong Kong summer as RN personnel from the Garrison paid them due honour.

Nursing services

They were led by Capt John Wells – later to lead the first contingent of BPF/EIF veterans at the reunion at Portsmouth to mark the 50th anniversary of the Japanese surrender – who was serving in HMS Swiftsure during the liberation.

Among them were 20 former members of the WRNS, QARNNS and the Voluntary Aid Detachment.

Bert Buckle, formerly a Royal Marine in the Swiftsure, paid tribute to the members of the nursing services who suffered under the Japanese occupation.

"We went to free some of them who had been imprisoned at Stanley," he recalled. "I think the Japanese had tried to feed them up during the last few days of the occupation, which only made things worse."

"When we got there they all looked like old women – but they were young, only in their 20s"

Grey skies and showers attended the Liberation Parade a week later, heralding the approach of Tropical Storm Kent and matching the sombre mood of those gathered at the Cenotaph.



Governor Chris Patten told them: "After three and a half years of war and privation it was a pitiful and battered Hong Kong that greeted her liberators in 1945."

"But the flutter of the White Ensign signalled that Hong Kong could breathe again... you are all heroes of this city whose free-

dom you helped to win."

HMS Trenchant's visit was cut short by the bad weather which forced an early departure to Singapore to take part in Exercise Starfish before starting her transit back to the UK in time for Christmas.



Golden call for Jenny

TWO VETERANS of the liberation of Hong Kong who have remained friends for 50 years are Cdr Ron Palastre and the legendary 'Jenny Side Party'.

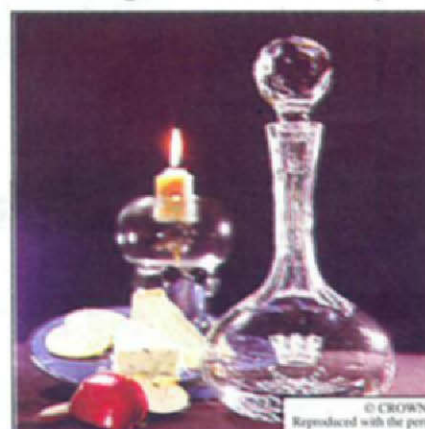
The pair first met in September 1945 when Ron arrived in HMS Anson with the job of mediating with the various all-female side parties employed in painting visiting ships.

Jenny – real name Mrs Ng Muk-kah – had begun this work in 1928 and by the time Ron returned during the Korean War she was firmly established as one HMS Tamar's best-loved characters. She was awarded the BEM in 1981.

Now president of the RN Boatwains Association, Ron was back in Hong Kong yet again – to present her with a gold-plated bosun's call as a mark of their appreciation.

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DAYS TO RE



Above: HMS Invincible held a service of commemoration for VJ Day while anchored in the Gulf of Manfredonia, Italy. Picture: LA(PHOT) Burden
Below left: The Duke of Edinburgh greets veterans on Southsea Common. Below right: The Beverley Sisters in full voice at Eastney.



"The commemorations could not have succeeded without the participation of thousands of servicemen and women, and with their usual professionalism and efficiency they made the weekend the success it was."

Prime Minister, John Major



Left: the Royal British Legion parties on the River Thames. Above: Convoy and North Russia Club veterans visited their old allies in Argentina. Right: A Chelsea Pensioner enjoys the VJ events at Cardiff Castle.



The Royal Navy guard at the British Pacific and East Indies Fleets weekend at Southsea, Portsmouth



The parade at Southsea was joined by...

GRATEFUL nations all over the world have been giving a final salute to their wartime generations 50 years after Japan's surrender brought history's bloodiest conflict to an end.

Parades, remembrance services, concerts, firework displays and flypasts have been taking place throughout the UK, the Far East and Australia.

HM ships visited every UK capital for the VJ events with HMS Exeter in London, HMS Cardiff in Cardiff, HMS Liverpool in Belfast and HMS Coventry in Edinburgh (see page 26).

Colonel Bogey

Portsmouth was the centre of the surrender day events on September 2 and 3.

Thousands of British Pacific and East Indies Fleets veterans descended on Southsea Common for the biggest naval reunion in the city's history.

The Duke of Edinburgh took the salute from a parade led by the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas playing 'Colonel Bogey.'

An evening concert at the former Royal Marines barracks at Eastney, Portsmouth, rekindled old memories for many veterans with performances by The Beverley Sisters and RM musicians and raised £14,000 for charity. A video of the Southsea events is now available - see page 24.

"The long forgotten or forgotten..."

They remember Nob have...

Terry Thorpe HMS Under of the B Indies F...

Plymouth was brought with the VJ ing 33,000 Naval Base.

The base and the arm display incl Argyll, Cam RFA Black f...

Visitors as far aw Zealand and 1500 people William Yar concert and display.

Cardiff C backdrop for memoration

MEMBER

There is no longer any forgotten fleet. They have been remembered. Nobody could wish for more."

One, former signalman in the Royal Navy, was an organiser of the British Pacific and East of Suez commemorations.

The Navy Days '95 event in Devonport coincides with the Day of the Fleet celebrations, attracting thousands of visitors to Devonport.

The event staged a host of events including a parade of naval vessels on the water, including HM ships Brilliant, Pembroke, Montrose and Rover.

The event included veterans from all over the world, including Australia, New Zealand and Canada and more than 100 ships packed into the Royal Dock for a commemorative parade and a spectacular fireworks display.

The Castle provided the venue for the city's VJ commemorative concert and in the evening...

Northern Ireland, HMS Liverpool anchored off a floodlit Carrickfergus Castle for an evening of televised celebrations.

HMS Monmouth and HMS Sheffield between them joined in Victory in the Pacific celebrations in Australia and Singapore.

Changi prison

A party of 200 BP&EIF veterans, led by Capt John Wells, visited Kranji near the Singapore/Malaysia border and unveiled a memorial stone at the Changi prison museum.

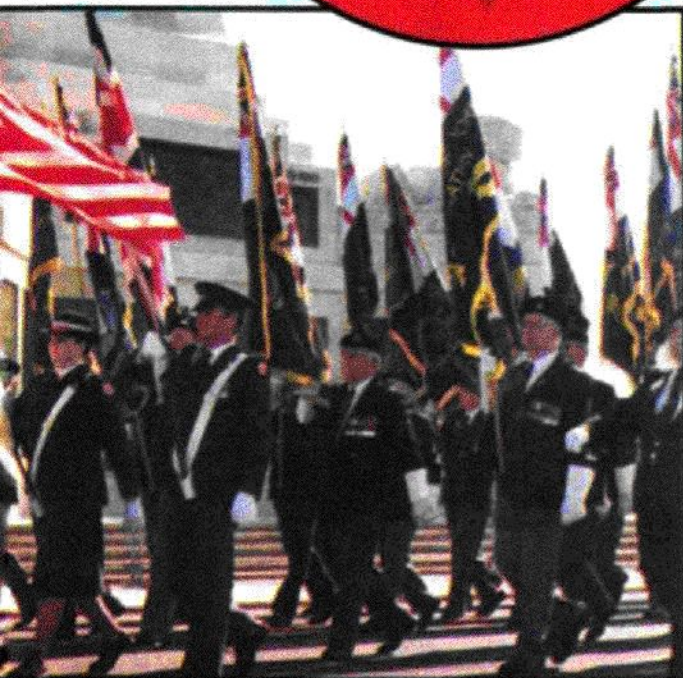
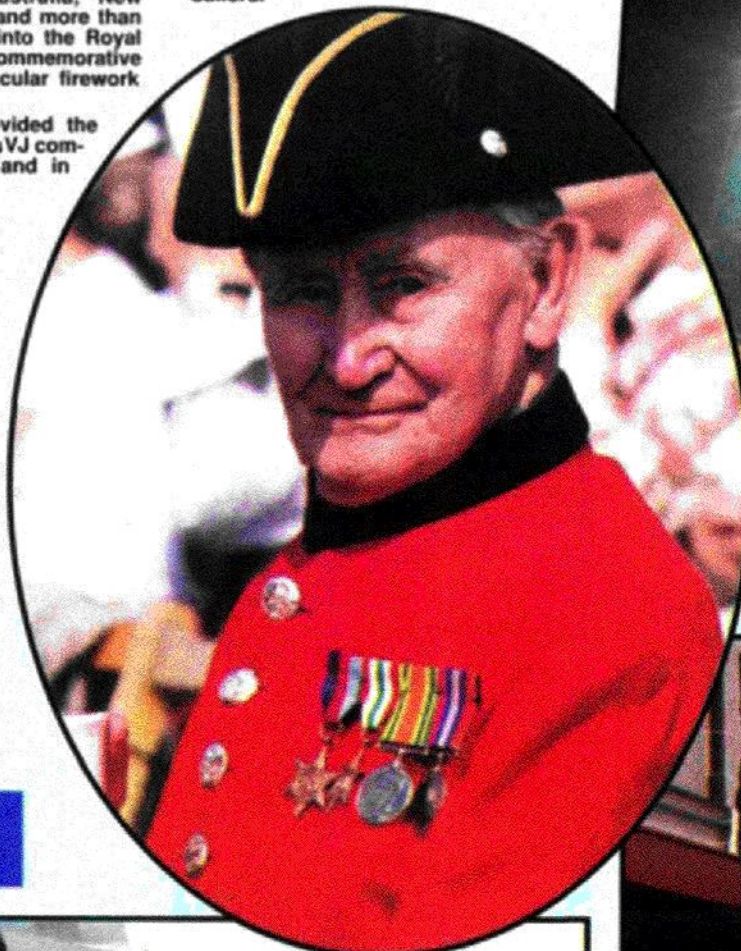
They went on to represent the Service at VJ events in Sydney and Canberra as well as parading in Hong Kong (see page 17).

British naval veterans from the Russian Convoy Club and the North Russia Club joined in with the VJ celebrations in Archangel as guests of the Northern Shipping Company and the Administration of Archangel.

The contribution made by all British seafarers in WWII is being honoured with a special show at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, London, on October 22. "The Fleet's In" is a night of nautical music and dance which will be performed in front of Princess Margaret, with all proceeds going to King George's Fund for Sailors.



Out with a bang: the sky above Plymouth was illuminated by fireworks on VJ night while the Royal Marines Band struck up Tchaikovsky's explosive 1812 overture. Picture HMS Drake Photographic Unit.



veterans from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA

Down Under: men from HMS Monmouth represented the Royal Navy in a ticker-tape parade through Brisbane.

A painting of the USS Oregon (BB-3) at sea. The ship is shown from a side-on perspective, moving towards the right. It has a dark hull and a white superstructure. Two large funnels are visible, and two masts are also present. The ship is creating a white wake in the blue water. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds.

— JFA

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Crews right round the British – and Irish – coasts all figure in this story, included in **Strong to Save** (Patrick Stephens, £14.99), a collection of dramatic first-hand accounts of RNLI rescues compiled by Ray and Susannah Kipling. The RNLI receives 50p from every copy sold. – JFA

At Your Leisure

And now the Beeb turns its cameras on to submarines

NAUTILUS, the BBC television documentary series on the evolution of the submarine, is accompanied by a book by Roy Davies (BBC Books, £16.99).

Chillingly fascinating, in more ways than one, is the background to the fourth episode (to be screened on October 3) which covers the race between the United States and Russia to create a nuclear-powered submarine and sail it to the North Pole.

The American team - led by Admiral Hyman Rickover - placed great emphasis on human safety and the world's first "nuke", USS Nautilus, captured "the last remaining strategic naval prize on Earth" in August 1958 loaded with the all-American necessities of ice-cream, movies, steak and fresh fruit.

Life in her Soviet counterpart K3 was a little different, the crew having to deal with leakages of radioactive water with mop and bucket. In the early days, apparently, the air inside K3 was full of radioactive sprays and gases, but it was decided that sea trials would continue until the radioactivity equalled 100 times the maximum permissible dose.

Metabolism

"One hundred and fifty grams of vodka after a day's work eliminated any radiation effects and restored the metabolism," K3's Commander Lev Zvitsov cheerfully records. "You can see now that all the

members of the first crew have survived and are in good condition..."

Three years after Nautilus, K3 - by then named *Leninski Komsomol* - made it to the Pole and back, and 15 months later another Soviet submarine completed the trip.

Ignorance

Davies observes: "In little more than 10 years submarine designers with no knowledge of nuclear physics, nuclear engineers who knew nothing about submarines, propulsion engineers kept ignorant of the project on their drawing boards, industries which supplied parts for unknown machines, and sailors who drank vodka to ward off radiactivity had created a war machine that generations of men had coveted for centuries."

Despite the end of the Cold War, research and development programmes are still in place.

Russian experts claim that vessels capable of speeds of 50-60 knots and of diving to over 6,000ft will appear in the next few years thanks to technological advances which allow them to take in water through special ducts and expel it at great force astern to propel the craft through the sea.

-JFA

A FITTING TRIBUTE TO OUR CANADIAN ALLIES



All tuckered out and a long way from home. Wren Winnifred Carr of Red Deer, Alberta, snuggles down into a corner of her British railway carriage.

BETWEEN 1940 and 1945 Canadian warships escorted 25,343 merchant ships carrying 182 million tons of cargo from North America to British ports.

The Royal Canadian Navy and Royal Canadian Air Force were jointly credited with the sinking of 49 enemy submarines on those routes - and the penalty Canada paid was the loss of 24 RCN ships, some of them in the Gulf of St Lawrence, the sea area represented by the Battle of the Atlantic extending, as was little understood at the time, even to the St Lawrence River itself.

John D. Harbron's *The Longest Battle - The Royal Canadian Navy in the Atlantic 1939-1945* (distributed by Airlife, £16.95) is a fine tribute to the 90,000 young men and women of a wartime navy that eventually required an incredible 50-fold expansion of its 1939 strength.

Recommissioned

In 1943 HMS Uganda was the sole escort of the Queen Mary when the liner carried Winston Churchill across the Atlantic to Canada. The following year she was recommissioned as HMCS Uganda, and thus became the RCN's only cruiser of World War II.

The first documented and eyewitness account of her part in the Pacific War - ironically, she was sold as scrap to the Japanese in 1956 - is told by Stephen Geneja in *The Cruiser Uganda, One War - Many Conflicts*, available from Tyendinaga Publishers, RR#1 Corbyville, Ontario, Canada K0K 1V0; priced £20 inc postage and packaging.

- JFA

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"H.M.S. GANGES (The final farewell)... video. Ideal birthday/surprise present. Documentary includes all aspects of GANGES before demolition. One tear-jerking hour of nostalgia, produced by JOHN DOUGLAS author H.M.S. GANGES (Roll on my dozen!) & H.M.S. GANGES (Tales of the T.R.O.G.'S.) S.A.E. details Doug... H... Penmarth, Redruth, Cornwall



Primatologist Peter Elliot prepares his friend Amy for her return to her jungle home in Congo.

It's not so much the Royal we...

ECHOING through the palace corridors and salons comes the flunkey's cry, "Chop-chop, the King!" - a signal to anyone in his path that HRH George III is heading their way.

And here he comes, chuntering away in a non-stop monologue, ending every sentence with "what-what" and exhibiting the utter self-consciousness of a man who has to answer to absolutely nobody.

The Madness of King George presents an obscure slice of 18th century history in which the monarch was seized by a mental disorder so rare that medical science wasn't to give it a name for another century or two.

The film intrigues at various levels, not least by its depiction of the complexity and ambiguity of human affairs. The king is likeable, kind even, but he is also forever fulminating about the loss of the American colonies and bent on holding up the abolition of the slave trade.

Screen Scene

The Prince of Wales, who seeks to usurp him, is admirably progressive but a detestable sneak. What constitutes a happy ending in such circumstances?

Similarly perplexing is the mixture of humanity and extreme brutality with which the king is treated by his doctor.

Most perplexing of all, though, is the fact that a film which describes the intimate bodily functions of Nigel Hawthorne, or rather King George, in such grotesque detail could be so thoroughly enjoyable. Trifle out of the common, what-wh-

Congo operates on the principle of the stewpot: if it's handy, sling it in. Volcanic eruptions, spy satellites, lost cities, missing expeditions, gorillas both friendly and murderous, civil war...even King Solomon's mines are in there somewhere.

The obscure cast (Tim Curry is the sole familiar face), more suggestive of a straight-to-video title than a mega-budget blockbuster, presumably allowed even more money to be spent on the spectacle, special effects and general expensive hurly burly.

If King George derives from the theatre, Congo links with the circus, with its fire-eaters, exotic animals and death-defying stunts. It's hokum, in the best Barnum and Bailey tradition.

- Bob Baker

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Foreword by

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At Your Service

Reunions

OCTOBER

Exmouth (Frigate) and Duncan (Caledonia) RN Artiller entry 1946 A 50th anniversary reunion is planned for October 4 to 6 in the Plymouth area. Interested classmates should contact Ivor Norsworthy, 22 Thornhill Rd, Mannam, Plymouth PL3 5NE. Tel 01752 663330.

RN Patrol Service annual reunion at Lowestoft on October 7. Contact Heady Crago, Terpenry Cottage, Hill Close, Nash Mills, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP3 8AD.

Fast Minelayers Association (Scottish/Wales) reunion October 11 at Rumney British Legion Club, Cardiff, South Wales. Contact Gwyn Evans, 68 Beverly Grove, Blackpool FY4 2BE. Tel. 01253 346885.

HMS Glory Association reunion October 14 at HMS Osprey, Portland, Dorset. Contact Peter Warde, 91 Dingleberry, Olney, Bucks MK46 5EU. Tel 01234 711611. All old Glories welcome.

HMS Fife Men of the Consumption Society will celebrate the tenth anniversary of its founding at The Rite Volunteer, Birchwood Lane, Somerscotes, Derbyshire, on October 14. Contact Taff Callaghan on 01222 798451 or Mick Stevenson on 01252 342352.

HMS Arethusa Association reunion to mark 30 years since the launch of F38 in the Isle of Wight, October 20-23. Details from Tom Sawyer, 4 Victoria Rd, Wood Lane, Rothwell, Leeds LS26 0AA.

Fleetwood Branch of the RN Patrol Service are holding their annual reunion at the Marine Hall, Fleetwood, on October 27. Contact the Social Secretary for details. Tel 01253 872989.

501 Kings Squad RM Trafalgar Day, October 21 will be our 48th anniversary of joining the Corps. If you want to meet Harry Boddington (Instructor) and some squad mates at The Victory Club, London, on October 27 and 28 contact Mick Stacey, 40 Bucks Cross Rd, Northfleet, Kent DA11 7ES Tel. 01474 332615.

HMS Concord D03 1947-58 8th Destroyer Flotilla Inaugural reunion at the RN Home Club, Queen St, Portsmouth, on October 28. AGM 1400, reunion 1900. October 29 church service at St Ann's Dockyard Church. Details from Peter Lee-Hale Tel. 0181 894 3222.

The Survey Ships Association (formerly the H Boats Association) 1995 at Portsmouth on October 28. Contact Mrs P M Erskine, Secretary, The Survey Ships

Association, Elms Guest House, Victoria Rd, Southsea, Hants PO5 2BT. Tel. 01705 823924.

NOVEMBER

17th Destroyer Flotilla O Boats. The AGM and reunion dinner will be held at the RN Home Club, Portsmouth on November 1. Details from RE Smith, Tumblewood Cottage, Brightley, Okehampton, Devon EX20 1RR. Tel. 01837 54758.

HMS Bellona at Victory Club near Marble Arch, London, November 4 (evening). Chummy ships also welcome. Details, Arthur Willis, 83 Briar Rd, Shepperton, Middlesex TW17 0JB.

HMS Constance 1947-51 Fortyniners Association fifth reunion in London. Details, Ernie Balderson on 01529 413410.

Old Illustrators Association reunion at Butlins Grand Hotel, 42 Princes Square, Bayswater, London W2 4NU from November 17 to 20 (AGM Saturday 1030). Details from Colin Pickford, Moss Cottage, Ashbourne Lane, Chapel-en-le-Frith, via Stockport SK12 6PA. Tel. 01298 814472.

1st, 3rd and 17th Escort Groups HMS Capel Affleck, Moorsom, Cranston, and all other ships from the above escort groups, a reunion will be held from November 17 to 19 at the Stretton Hotel, 206-14 Promenade, Blackpool FY1 1RU. Details from John Wickens (Moorsom) Tel. 01442 251231 or Harry Rawson (Cranston) Tel. 01460 234583 or Stan Wilkinson (Capel) Tel. 01617 756732.

HMS Newhaven reunion on November 18. Details from Dave Gamble, 163 Eastbourne Rd, Lower Willington, Eastbourne, E. Sussex BN20 9NB. Tel. 01323 485828.

LST Club annual dinner on November 24 and the Falcon Hotel, Stratford-on-Avon. Annual reunion at the Stretton Hotel, Blackpool April 19 to 21, 1996. Details from Clay Maxwell, 45 New Rd, Water Orton, Birmingham, B46 1QP. Tel. 0121 747 2418.

DECEMBER

The River Plate Veterans Association 56th annual reunion at the Astor Hotel, Elliot St, Plymouth, December 9. All who served in the ships which took part are welcome. Details from R A Fogwill, 96 Harport Rd, St Marychurch, Torquay, Devon TQ1 4QJ. Tel. 01803 327262.

1996

Mount Wise All former staff officers are invited to attend the Mount Wise Staff Officers' closure cocktail party on February

1. Applications from Lt J Rickard RN, N1(P), Flag Officer Plymouth. Tel. 01752 501373.

The Penelope Association (cruiser 1938-44 or frigate 63-92) 10th annual reunion at Blackpool February 16-18, 1996. Details from Michael Bee, 1 Oddfellows St, Mirfields WF14 9AB.

HMS Venerable Association tenth reunion, Llandudno, March 22-25. Details from Bas Redfern, 64 Coppice Rd, Talke, Stoke-on-Trent ST7 1UA. Tel. 01782 784876.

HMS Wren Atlantic, Russian convoys, D Day operations in the West Channel, the Persian Gulf, 3rd reunion March 23-24. Officers and men who served in her 1942-56 should contact Ron Young on 01707 265653 or Les Owen Tel 01373 822619. Ship's company from the destroyer Wren 1919-1940 also very welcome.

Indefatigable Association reunion at the Royal Sailor's Home Club, Queen St, Portsmouth, March 30-31. For details send a SAE to Jack Hibbert, 23 Canterbury Ave, Southampton SO19 1EB.

HMS Ramillies Association 6th reunion March 29 to April 1 at the Sandringham Hotel, Southsea, Hants. Details from Eric Marks, 3 Kendal Ave, Thornton-Cleveleys, Lancashire FY5 2LY. Tel. 01253 826300.

HMS Newcastle 1952-58 First reunion of those who served in the Far East in these years, April 6 at the Royal Sailors' Home Club on April 6, 1996. Contact Bill Thompson, Hillcrest, Mickle Hill, Blackhall Rocks, Hartlepool TS27 4FD. Tel. 0191 5863068.

HMS Black Swan Association annual reunion at Coventry April 12-14. All shipmates welcome. Details from John Dunstan, 47 Abbotsbury Rd, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 2NS. Tel. 01626 54294.

HM Diesel Submarines Engineer Officers A reunion/wake to mark the end of the diesel age is planned for April 1996 in HMS Dolphin, Gosport, for all submarine MEOS. Details from Lt Cdr H J Sawyer, 604 Tower House, Clarendon Rd, Southsea, Hants PO5 2LA.

HMS London Association (1947) reunion at The Queen's Hotel, Southsea, April 20-21. Contact John Parker, 13 Bromyard Cres, Portsmouth, Hants PO6 3SP.

HMS Tenby Association WWII Minesweeper J34 and post-war A/S frigate F65, next reunion Torquay in May 1996. Contact Jeff May Tel. 01344 59368, Phil Rowe Tel. 0161 747 7325 or Roy Tapping Tel. 01292 301903.



PRIZE PUZZLE

WINNER of Navy News' Mystery Picture competition No. 6 is Mr B O'Brien of Altrincham, Cheshire. His entry was drawn at random from the correct replies which named the ship in the photograph as HMS Cumberland.

The place at which she arrived too late to receive a Battle Honour was the River Plate in 1939 where the action with the German pocket battleship Graf Spee had already been fought.

Mr O'Brien receives our cash prize of £25. A further prize is offered for the correct solution to this month's competition. Tell us:

1. The location of the jetty in the photograph.
2. The two kinds of vessels that are pictured.

Fill in the coupon below and send it to Mystery

MYSTERY PICTURE 8

Name _____

Address _____

1. LOCATION?

2. TYPES OF VESSELS?

Eddie Merry, Also John Frater 'Ursa', 60 have confirmed attendance at Llandudno reunion March 1996. Contact Stan De'ath, 28 Main St, Sewter, Grantham, Lincs NG33 5RF. Tel. 01476 860833.

HMS Scylla (1942-44) Ex-LSM K G Powell would like to hear from any old shipmates, 10 St Lawrence Ave, Milford Haven, Dyfed, S. Wales SA73 3NA. Tel. 01646 692485.

HMS Hound, Algerine sweeper 1942-44. C A (Bungy) Williams would like to hear from any old shipmates, especially Doc Bardsley, Jennings, Mc Kay, Mabblerley and Barlow, 24 Barryfields, Shalford, Braintree CM7 5HU. Tel. 01371 850806.

HMS Kilchrenan 1943-45 Atlantic convoys. Ex LCK Ron Nichols would like to hear from old shipmates: 98 Olton Boulevard East, Acocds Green, Birmingham B27 7ND.

Calling Old Shipmates

HMS Lioness Far East 1950-53 A reunion is planned for next year. Six members have already been contacted. If interested, contact S E Hudson, 40, Stone Riggs, Stockton on Forest, York YO3 9UG. Tel. 01904 400078.

HMS Ceres 1957 Lofty Stapleton would like to hear from any former stewards, 75 Great Orchard, Ilchester, Yeovil, Somerset Tel. 01935 841147.

VSIS Fort Wrangell (British Pacific Fleet 1944-46) Any ex-crew members RN, WAAAF, DEMS, Maritime Royal Artillery and merchant navy, please contact G W Messom, 35 High Meadow, Tollerton, Nottingham, NG12 4DZ. Tel. 0602 373705.

HMS Cossack Association seeks the following shipmates: PO PJ Beach, SPO PO Bellinger, AB Broom, SBA Warden, Stoker Cozzine. All served on HMS Cossack when sunk in October 1941. Anyone that knows of them please contact G W Toomey, 184 Bebbington Rd, Rock Ferry, Birkenhead, Wirral L42 4QE. Tel. 0151 645 3761.

HMS Lullington (10th MSS Inshore Flotilla) Jack Worth, ex-Tel and Secretary of the Ten Class Association want to contact the ship's company of the 1956-58 commission, especially LCK Jim Gates, best man at his wedding to LWRM Sheila Margaret Howard in Malta, May 1957. Amethyst, Lerryn, Lowestoft, Cornwall PL22 0QF. Tel. 01208 872452.

HMS Woolwich (depot ship Alexandria 1940-42) Ex-stoker Len Pearce would like to hear from ex-stoker Ginger Wilson of Madstone area, Kent, or any of his family, 4 Shoreham Close, Bexley, Kent DA5 3AG.

HMS Glenearn, Kure, Japan 1945. John Rounce (Captain Grindle's driver in

Kure) would like to hear from any shipmates. Also served HMS Collingwood 1943, then Kaluga, Mayana and Braganza, 3632 Queenstown Drive, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada L5C 2H1.

HMS Impregnable, January 1927. Reg Hanford DJX 129052 and W E Mills DJX 129056 would like to know what happened to the three shipmates who came between them in the official list. Contact W E Mills, 65 Mulberry Grove, Swindon, Wiltshire SN2 1JD.

HMS St Vincent (Blake 481 Class March 19 1962) HMS Daedalus (Mech course 21, 1967-69) FAA Field Gun Crew (1972) SD officers course October 1977. Mike Atfield would like to hear from old shipmates for his 50th birthday party on April 23, especially Tom Bannion, Adge Cronin, Paul Yanto Dunn, Andy Gilmore, Dave Hazelwood and Keith Henley, Chroma, Bracken Close, Storrington, West Sussex RH20 3HT. Tel. 01903 742157.

Cyril Dedman, ex-sickbayman, Victoria barracks January 17, 1951 and later RNH Chatham, Egmont Class under PO Vaughan, A G Fitt would like to hear from you or anybody in the above class or who knows him from later postings, 20 Sucklington Ave, Norwich, NR3 2SY. Tel. 01603 426151.

HMS Agincourt (1962-64) HMS Undine (1958-60) Pancho Pearson would like to hear from shipmates of the above, 24 Breck Rd, Blackpool FY3 9DT. Tel. 01253 395430.

HMS Tartar (1939-45) Would anyone interested in a reunion in Plymouth next year contact Fred Wassam at flat 34, Homefort House, Stoke Rd, Gosport, Hants PO12 1QG. Tel. 01705 503722.

HMS Ganges 1970 Kevin Wood (Totty) would like to hear from JRO John Anderson of Rodney Division (from Aberdeen) last

seen HMS Eagle 1972. Anyone who knows his whereabouts please ring 01895 463558.

HMS Cilicia 1939-44 Charles Leonard Archbold would like to hear from old shipmates, 12 Ravenscourt Drive, Basildon, Essex SS16 4HU.

HMS Venerable PO William Aston, from Birmingham, PO Kenneth King, AM John Staples and PO Frank Armitage, POAF(E) William H Cooper would like to hear from you, 110 Viking Rd, Bridlington, East Yorkshire YO16 5TB.

HMS Saintes Any former members of the ship's company are welcome to join the HMS Saintes Association which is already over 100 strong. Contact Andy Andrews, 65 West Way, Lancing, W. Sussex Tel. 01903 767637.

HMS Whitesand Bay (1945-46) If you served in the ship between these dates why not join the association? Contact Geoff Nightingale, 268 Galleys Hill, Gadebridge, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 3LD. Tel. 01442 63405.

Mombasa 1942 Eric Ingham and Bill Bonzo Johns would like to contact Tich Garbutt and Dixie (Prince of Wales survivors) with whom they shared a flat in Mombasa 1942. Tel. 01983 613867.

HMS Cairo AA Cruiser lost during pedestal convoy to Malta, August 1942. The Association is still looking for survivors. Contact Jack Harris, 72 St Leonard's Caravan Park, West Moors, Ringwood Rd, Ferndown, Dorset BH22 0AQ. Tel. 01202 894121.

HMS Eaglet RN and RNR members who served here are invited to contact Mr Paul Hedgecock, Secretary, HMS Eaglet Old and Bold Affiliation, 14 Park St, Bootle,

Merseyside L20 3DG. Tel. 0151 933 2466.

Sinah Warren Camp, BP-BI weekend. If you were there and are still interested in a reunion next year, please contact A W Green, 11 Stainbeck Rd, Leeds LS7 2QL. Tel. 0113 278 2088.

HMS Relentless, West Indies 1965. Mick Knighton is hoping to hear from old hands. There are 12 shipmates interested in a reunion early in December. If you know of anyone who served in her contact him at 7 Stadium Villas, Wallsend, Tyne Wear NE28 7EN. Tel. 0191 263 7386.

J E (Ted) Jones from Bootle who joined HMS Ganges around December 14, 1945 and went on to become a CPO TEL before moving to Canada, and other "Nozzers" Stanley and Speakman, please contact T A Simmonds, 4 Trimley Close, Wirral, Merseyside L49 6PQ.

HMS Rifleman (1954) ERA 4 Tony Ward would like to hear from ERA 4 J Brooke, possibly from the London area, 38 High St, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 1LZ.

Squad 279 April 1943 and Troop Sgt Dash, Mr RF (Pete) Boyden would like to hear from you, 36 Elizabeth Rd, Kettering, Northants, NN160 PD. Tel. 01536 8409.

HMS Maenad (1946) Any communications staff, please contact TEL Vic Seaman, Barbara, 156 Stonecliff Park, Welton, Lincs LN2 3LL. Tel. 01673 862866.

HMS Opossum Association is looking for ex-shipmates to join the 60-strong membership. Contact Harry Catterston, 27 Rissington Walk, Thornaby, Stockton-on-Tees TS17 9QJ. Tel. 01642 763918. Where are you Doug Banks?

HMS Undine - Urchin Association seeks old shipmates Gilly Potter, Reg Soames and

Over to You

Photo search: In page VIII of Navy News' VJ supplement (August) a picture appeared showing Earl Mountbatten under the guns of HMS King George V, and addressing the ship's company. Anyone who has a print of that picture and is willing to have it copied is asked to call Navy News on 01705 294228. Expenses will be reimbursed.

Borneo, December 1962 to August 1966 The Imperial War Museum seeks uniforms, personal equipment, badges, letters, medals, diaries, weapons, film, photos, documents and captured souvenirs from the Brunei Rebellion and Indonesian Confrontation. Contact Nicholas Hewitt, Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Rd, London SE1 6HZ. Tel. 0171 416 5354.

LSTD Jim Marshall, wife Wendy and son Barrie who met the Queen Mother in Ark Royal in 1970. Stephen Lynas, Community Affairs Editor, Westcountry Television, Western Wood Way, Langage Science Park, Plymouth PL7 5BG would like to hear from you. Tel. 01752 333333.

HMS Worcester (1919 W Class Destroyer) Details of Worcester's action against Scharnhorst and Gneisenau in Feb 42 in which the ship was severely damaged are sought by John Cassford, 3 Caedwalla Drive, Tangmere, Chichester PO20 6HU. Tel. 01243 775996.

Frederick William Phillips DSM Born June 10, 1920. Served HMS Ganges August 1940 to March 1941 then Victory, St Vincent, Vernon and Ferret in 1941 then on to Londonderry. His daughter Mrs McEligott would like a photograph, 23 Highland Rd, Upper Northwood, London SE19 1WW. Tel. 0181 670 1921.

Photos wanted of the main gates of HMS Vernon, Nelson, Pembroke, and Seahawk (50s and 60s) also HMS Wizard

after Type 15 conversion and HMS Maidstone's diving tender at Faslane MFV 1077, known as Ye-Yo. Contact R Edwards, 75 Harold St, Dover CT16 1SB. Tel. 01304 212224.

HMS Vanessa 1940 The grandson of Lt Cdr E A Stocker DSC who commanded Vanessa in June 1940 would like to hear from any rank who remembers him or knows why he was awarded the DSC. Contact Mr E H Stocker, 46 Charlotte Close, Mount Hawke, Truro, Cornwall TR4 8TS. Tel. 01209 891243.

HMS Versatile bombed in Holland 1940, returned to Sheerness with casualties. Details of the ship's movement after this are sought by Mr Turner, 48 Ophir Rd, North End, Portsmouth, Hants. Tel. 01705 664147.

A sick berth manual from Chatham is sought by ex LSBA K D Lay, 12 Lloyd Court, Seaholme Rd, Mablethorpe, Lincs LN12 2BU.

Goat Fell, Isle of Arran. WW2 air transport disaster. Details sought by J P Wood, Foxgloves, 5 Ferndown, Horley, Surrey RH6 8ED. Tel. 01293 784293.

Stoker 1st Class N Mason, HMS Brontosaurus, died of wounds May 25, 1945. Details are sought by his nephew Mr E Hilary, 7 Ford Drive, Cowpen Farm Estate, Blyth, Northumberland NE24 5EQ.

HMS Glorious sunk June 8, 1940 by Scharnhorst and Gneisenau. The son of John F Woodcock, last Master at Arms, would like to hear from any survivor or relative who could identify regulating petty officers in a photograph, 23 Highland Rd, Upper Northwood, London SE19 1WW. Tel. 0181 670 1921.

Photos wanted of the main gates of HMS Vernon, Nelson, Pembroke, and Seahawk (50s and 60s) also HMS Wizard

ERA K J Evans who served in HMS Sheffield 1947. The Revd Canon Stephen Palmer, The Deanery, Stanley, Falkland Islands, South Atlantic, would like to hear from anyone on Sheffield at this time or who knows ERA Evans. Tel. 00 500 21100.

ERA R A (Aif) Dixon died Singapore, February 1942, listed as 'no known grave'. S R J Killick, ex-3rd Indian Corps Signals, Kuala Lumpur 1941 seeks details of his death from comrades, 53 Gordon Avenue, Portsmouth, Southampton SO14 6WH.

Sylvianus Oliver Foster, HMS Vanguard 1946 and HMS Birmingham, sought by Mr C O Pearce, 37 Second Ave, Portsmouth, Hants.

HMS Rowley (Captain Class frigate) USA 1945-49. Information on the ship is sought by H J Bickley c/o 1 Rowan Walk, Hadfield SK14 8HB. Tel. 0161 231 2106.

HM submarines Tabard and Taciturn: any ex-crew with a story to tell, particularly from their days with 4th Submarine Division at HMS Penguin in Australia, please contact Mrs S Hancock, 37 Bedford Drive, Timperley, Atrincham, Cheshire WA15 7XB. Tel. 0161 980 8815.

HM Submarine Stubborn July 28, 1945 Lt PDV Jones was lost boarding a junk off Bali. His cousin William Zimpel would like details of the incident, 26 Sublime Point Rd, Leura 2780, New South Wales, Australia. Tel. 00 6147 841015.

HMS Offa 17th Destroyer Flotilla, Arctic. New Zealander AB Bill Thurston would like to hear from old shipmates, 7 Stratford Avenue, Milford, Auckland, New Zealand.

Mr Parrot, former RN engineer, last known address Morris Close, Wych Lane, Gosport, Hants. Wife's name Daphne, children Mark and Alison. Frau Rosenstock, for-

mer au pair, would like to see family again. Please contact c/o WO K Burton, Victory Building, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth PO1 3LS.

HMS Chelsea, ex-US destroyer Crownshield, a four-stacker, RN 1940-49. Anyone who served in her or has any history or photographs, please contact Trevor Hunneyball, 48 Queen's Rd, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 5HW. Tel. 01380 723065.

Dodecanese Ex-Tel George Long, HMS Kelvin, would like to hear from any tells or ratings involved with SBS landing parties during 1944/45. 7 Graham Crescent, Rubery, Rednal, Birmingham B45 9DD.

RN Queenstown Training Squadron, Ireland. Details sought, particularly in relation to HMS Ajax, HMS Thesusus and HMS Sturgeon. Contact Mr Griffiths, 71 Glyn Bedw, Llanbadach, Caerphilly, S. Wales CF8 3PF. Tel. 01222 862602.

HMS Fagard apprentices 1903-95 POAEM R Smith is re-establishing the Fagard Museum in HMS Raleigh, with additional sections for HMS Tenedos and HMS Indus. Details of the location of ship bells and donations of memorabilia most welcome. Fagard Squadron, HMS Raleigh, Torpoint, Cornwall PL11 2PD.

HMS Fidelity, sunk Atlantic, December 30, 1942. The brother of CPO J Millar seeks details of the ship and survivors who may have known him. Contact G Millar, White Gables, Arncroft, Nr Anstruther, Fife KY10 2RQ. Tel. 01333 720260.

RWG (Ron) Head CERA HMS 1022 who stayed with Mr and Mrs Houck in Norfolk, Virginia, 1945. Please contact their son Robert R Clarke, 129 Liberty Rd, Sykesville, Maryland 21784 USA. Tel. 001 410 795 0471.



THE ASSOCIATION OF ROYAL NAVY OFFICERS Patron Her Majesty The Queen

ARNO, the Officers' Charitable and Social fellowship, is open to all Serving and Retired Commissioned Officers of the RN, RM, WRNS, QARNNS and their Reserves.

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Royal Naval Association

VALUABLE ROLE FOR FORMER RNXS

WHEN the Royal Naval Auxiliary Service was disbanded last year due to defence cuts, the men and women who crewed its small, black-and-grey ships and port HQs were not without friends ashore.

Among the first RNA branches to extend the hand of friendship was Gateshead which invited former members of the RNXS to join them - and many did.

Today former members of the Service are playing a valuable role in RNA branches throughout the country. Having trained in naval establishments and operated a service in support of the Navy for many years, they are respected members of the Association.

What the Association offers

them in return is a comradeship not easily found in civilian life.

This entails involvement with other RNA branches and local organisations as well as a range of other social activities.

However, the former RNXS shipmates have found that the RNA is much more than a centre for such activities, and is a caring community which operates a welfare organisation catering for sailors down on their luck. It also raises considerable funds annually for naval and other charities.



Heart and home

MEMBERS of No. 4 Area present their cheque for £1,000 to the newly opened Dunkirk Memorial Home at Bishop's Lydeard. The donation followed a visit to the home by members of Taunton Branch, who were so impressed by what they had seen that they instigated the gift. Handing over the giant cheque are Area president, Shipmate Howard Jeffries, and Taunton chairman, Shipmate Reg Murch.

Cornwall's biggest Sea Sunday march

ONE OF the biggest Sea Sunday parades seen in Cornwall and organised by the Falmouth branch attracted 250 shipmates with representatives of other ex-Service associations.

Thirty-one standards were paraded through the town to music by the bands of HMS Seahawk and Llogan Sparrow. Veterans of four Burma Star Association branches from the South-West joined members of the Far East POW association in taking pride of place in the parade.

The service at the Church of King Charles the Martyr was conducted by Canon Roger Gilbert. The Bishop of St Germans, the Rt Rev David Roberts, preached the sermon.

Among the congregation was Vice Admiral Sir James Jungius.

Rear Admiral Philip Burnett, the Mayors of Falmouth and Penryn and senior naval officers from Seahawk and HMS Cornwall.

No 10 Area

RNA Assistant Secretary Shipmate Hugh Mair was among those in No. 10 Area who marked the 25th anniversary of the demise of the Tot. While two pipers played a lament, six ex-sailors carried in trays bearing glasses of rum to be imbibed by the mustered members.

After the merits and strength of the Tot were recalled, the Area public relations officer, Shipmate Jan Thomas, presented commemorative pictures to Liverpool branch and to RNA HQ.

Cheshunt

Members joined the congregation of Christ Church,

Waltham Cross, for a VJ Day service conducted by branch chaplain, the Rev Martin Bannister.

They also joined other ex-Service men and the Mayor of Cheshunt at Whit Horn Park where a bench was presented in memory of the dead of the World Wars.

Branch News

Bridport

St Swithun's Church was packed for the dedication of the branch's new standard.

After a service conducted by the Rev Roger Shambrook, assisted by the Rev Bill Hill, more than 20 standards from No. 4 Area were paraded through the town.

Leading the parade of Sea Cadets and veterans were members of the ship's company of HMS Bridport, the salute being taken by their commanding officer, Lt Cdr Alistair Halliday, accompanied by the Mayor.

Hastings & St Leonards

Members entertained shipmates from Lydd and manned a stall at Hastings Town and County Fair, as well as taking part in VJ Day parades and parties and visiting the Royal Tournament.

Branch meetings are held at 2000 on the first Wednesday of each month at the RAFA Club, Wellington Square, Hastings.

Utttoxeter

General Secretary Capt Bob McQueen RN opened the branch's new mess - The Normandy Room.

Also there were the Mayor, branch president, Shipmate the Rev Keith Boughley, chairman John Youde and standard bearer Alan Hodgetts, as well as ex-CPO Terry Bullingham who lost his sight in the Falklands War.

Crosby

Members attended a Sea Sunday service in Sefton Church where the congregation included sea cadets from TS Starling, members of the Merchant Navy and Association of Wrens.

Weymouth

RNA money earmarked for TS Boscawen Sea Cadet unit finally has been handed over after a four-year freeze on the assets.

The £364 was held by the bank when its owners, Dorset RN and RM Association, disbanded in 1990.

Two members whose signatures were required for the release of the money had died. After marathon efforts by Association administrators and

former members of the Dorset Association, the cash was freed.

Stone

Members mourn the loss of their president and founder member, Rear Admiral Michael Griffin, a vice-president of the Association. He was a generous supporter of the branch and its activities, and gave wise counsel.

In Brief

Redruth & Camborne - A recruiting drive by the branch got off to a flying start when Shipmates Jim Watkins, Leslie Rowe and Arthur Parnell were interviewed by Radio Cornwall about the Association, its aims and activities, and why they had joined.

RNA Concert Band - Members of Folkestone branch were delighted at the concert given by the band under its conductor, Mr Andrew Wall. They feel the band deserves great acclaim. (The RNA Concert Band is not a marching band, as we were asked to point out in our September edition. However, in doing so we inadvertently described it as Margate RNA Band. The RNA Concert Band is in fact based at Ramsgate, and is not part of Margate Branch).

Margate - The branch's Diamond Jubilee and Trafalgar Day parades will be held on October 22 at the Winter Gardens, Brentwood RBL Band will provide the music and a buffet and reception will be held at The Queen's Hall (tickets £3 from Shipmate Butten, F/3, 8 Love Lane, Margate, Kent CT9 1BQ).

Lewes - For his many years of work as branch treasurer and social activities organiser, Shipmate A. E. Poulter has been awarded life membership.

Havant - The re-commissioned branch, already boasting 20 full members and as many associate members, meets at 1930 each Tuesday at Havant FC. Prospective recruits should contact Shipmate N. Jones (tel. 01705 451566).

Kettering - Membership has increased by 17 per cent on last year's total. The hard-working committee organised VJ Day celebrations attended by 108 members and wives.

THE ROYAL NAVY OF WWII ON VIDEO

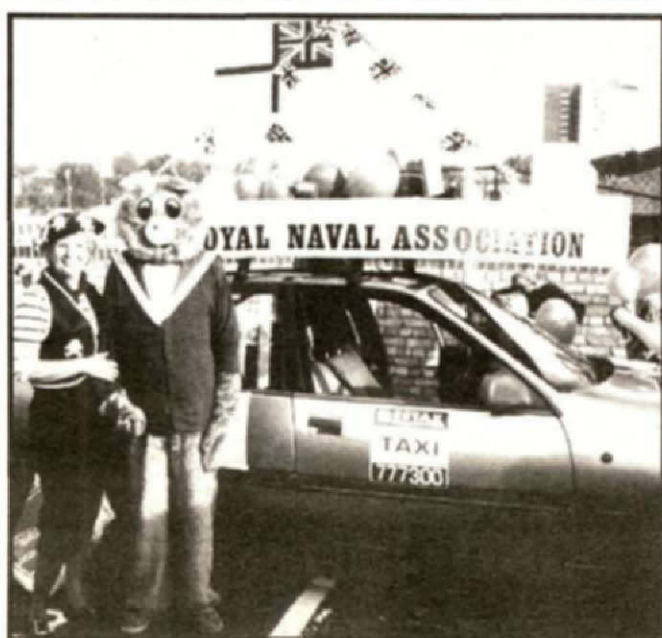
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Southend's best-dressed cab

SHIPMATE Ted (Ron Hearn) and his piratical wife Audrey show off Southend branch's prizewinning effort in an annual event to entertain handicapped and under-privileged children.

Each year the branch sponsors and decorates a cab for a trip organised by Southend-on-Sea Taxi Drivers Association for Under-privileged Children. Last year they won second prize for the most imaginatively "dressed" taxi - but this year hit the heights by taking first place.

Ten members of the branch mustered to decorate the cab and received the enthusiastic thanks of the children who this year spent the day at Chessington Zoo.



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NoticeBoard

Points

THE following list shows the total points of the men and women at the top of each advancement roster for petty officer and leading rates as at October 1995.

Intermediates (Int) indicates that personnel can be advanced before they are eligible to receive merit points or before the roster can be adjusted to take account of them. This means that personnel are advanced in "basic date" order. Dates shown against "Int" rosters are the basic dates of the top eligible personnel.

The number following the points (or basic date) is the number of men who were advanced during September.

CCMEALM - 224, Nil. **CCMEALM** - 157, Nil. **CCMEALSM** - 109, Nil. **CCMEALSM** - Int (31.8.94), Nil. **CCWEAADC** - Int (1.8.95), Nil. **CCWEAADC** - Int (4.4.95), Nil. **CCWEAADC** - 161, Nil. **CCWEAADC** - 231, Nil. **CCAEAM** - 204, Nil. **CCAEAR** - 143, Nil. **CCAEAWL** - 320, Nil. **POWOWSM** - 321, Nil. **LS(EW)** - LRO(W) - 131, Nil. **PO(M)** - 143, Nil. **LS(M)** - Int (15.6.93), Nil. **PO(R)** - 378, Nil. **LS(S)** - 119, Nil. **PO(S)** - Int (16.11.93), Nil. **LS(S)** - 119, Nil. **PO(D)** - 393, Nil. **LS(D)** - 701, Nil. **PO(MW)(D)** - 141, Nil. **LS(MW)** - 276, Nil. **PO(SR)** - 393, Nil. **LS(SR)** - 396, Nil. **PO(SEA)** - 514, Nil. **POCY** - 520, Nil. **LRO(T)** - 575, Nil. **PORS** - 515, Nil. **LRO(G)** - 289, Nil. **PORT** - 382, Nil. **RPO** - 420, Nil.

POMEM(L)(GS) - Int (28.4.94), 11, Nil. **LMEM(L)(GS)** - Int (12.5.94), 6, Nil. **POMEM(M)(GS)** - 634, Nil. **LMEM(M)(GS)** - 156, Nil. **POMEM(O)(GS)** - 210, Nil. **LMEM(O)(GS)** - 170, Nil. **POMEM(R)(GS)** - 114, Nil. **POCA** - 430, Nil. **POCK(GS)** - 393, Nil. **POCK(GS)** - 304, Nil. **POSTD(GS)** - 768, Nil. **LSA(GS)** - 302, Nil. **POSA(GS)** - 609, Nil. **LSA(GS)** - 171, Nil. **POWTR(GS)** - 251, Nil. **LWTR(GS)** - 191, Nil.

POMA - 300, Nil. **LMA** - Int (10.5.94), 3, Nil. **PO(S)(SM)(O)** - 339, Nil. **LS(S)(SM)** - 461, Nil. **PO(T)(SM)** - 264, Nil. **LS(T)(SM)** - 221, Nil. **PORS(SM)** - 430, Nil. **LRO(SM)** - 259, Nil. **POMEM(L)(SM)** - 524, Nil. **LMEM(L)(SM)** - 126, Nil. **POMEM(M)(SM)** - 839, Nil. **LMEM(M)(SM)** - 352, Nil. **PO(WSM)** - 585, Nil. **LOM(WSM)** - 467, Nil. **POWEM(R)(SM)** - 165, Nil. **LWEM(R)(SM)** - 508, Nil. **POSA(SM)** - 347, Nil. **LSA(SM)** - 508, Nil.

Appointments

Capt P. A. M. Thomas, to be promoted Rear Admiral, Sept 13, and to be Chief of Strategic Systems Executive, Dec.

Cdr C. J. Bryning, HMS Iron Duke as CO, Dec 12.
Cdr T. A. Cunningham, HMS Gloucester as CO, Jan 16.

Deaths

Capt George Pound DSC, elder son of Admiral of the Fleet Sir Dudley Pound, a destroyer captain, George Pound's ship HMS Lamerton hunted down an Italian submarine. His ships included Nelson, Norfolk, Hurricane, Lauderdale (as CO), Wakeful (as CO), Superb, Widemouth Bay (as CO) and HMNZS Royalist (as CO). Captain HMS Osprey 1958-61 and Captain Clyde 1961-65. Aged 82.

Capt Robert Williamson DSC, OBE, joined MN as ordinary seaman in 1909 and RNR as sub-lieutenant in 1914. Served in Q-ship and later commanded division of minesweepers and drifters. Was one of last surviving participants of Waiheke incident in China, 1926 in which he was master of the steamship Kaiwo. A naval party on board Kaiwo rescued three British MN officers held by a Chinese warlord. Aged 104.

Cdr Denis Swithbank DSC, OBE, A 19-year-old midshipman in HMS Orion in 1941, he was the youngest naval officer to make a successful escape from a POW camp (after being captured during the evacuation of Greece). Ships included HMS Musketeer, Hedingham Castle (as CO), Vanguard, Victorious, Hermes, and HMS Terror (Singapore). Retired from Ship Dept, Bath 1977. Aged 73.

Lt Cdr John Wallace DSC, Croix de Guerre, Naval Provost Marshal 1948, CO of HM ships Calpe, Penylan and RN liaison officer in French battleship Richelieu. Other ships included HMS Wild Swan, Crusader, Encounter, Anthony and Victory. Member of Association of RN Officers. August 25, aged 85.

Lt Cdr John Joseph Condon, Ships included HMS Cumberland, Renown, Tiger, Centurion. August 30, aged 79.

Lt Cdr George Stanley Payton RNRV, member of RN Patrol Service. Served in

minesweepers Hatsuse, MMS 1, MMS 39, Tattoo, Gosling. July 28, aged 86.

Robert William Ailion, ex-MAA, chairman, Regulating Branch Association (93). Sept 22.

Clem Tinney ex-LS, RNZN, served in HMNZS Achilles, Gambia, Tattoo. Aged 70.

R. (Taff) Hiscox, Stoker 1939-42. Member of Penelope Association.

Keith Charles Martin, ex-CPO, served 1961-85. Ships included HMS Ark Royal, Cleopatra, Fife, London and Glamorgan (during Falklands War). July 29.

Leslie Edward Oswin, ex-ERA, founder member and chairman of Leicestershire SOCA. Submarines included HMS Affray and, during WWII, HMS Varne. Aged 72.

Bill Orwin, member of "Majestic" "Caledonia" 1937 Boys 1939 Association. Ships included HMS Caledonia, Warspite, Antenor and Mansfield. August 17.

Derrick Whyton, ex-AB, Ships included HMS Wizard, Sparrow and St Brides Bay.

ASSOCIATION OF RN OFFICERS

Lt Cdr J. H. A. Benians DSC, Served in HM ships Wanderer, Ithureal, Wolfhound, Lauderdale, Saints, Chevron, Cheviot and Rapid.

Capt J. H. Crawford DSC, Served in HM ships Edinburgh, Duke of York, Indefatigable and Devonshire.

Lt Cdr J. W. A. Denham, Served in HM ships Kenya, Rodney, MTB 5007, Gannet and Highflyer.

Lt Cdr F. G. Datten, Served in HM ships Triumph, Harrier, Gambia, Fulmar and Drake.

Lt Cdr (S) L. F. Potter BEM, Served in HM ships Pembroke, Naiad, Nile, Odyssey, King Alfred, Maidstone, Wildfire, King George V, Duadem, Cleopatra, St Angelo,

Barfleur, Goldcrest and Cochrane.

Sen Cdr Gnr F. G. A. Tovey, Served in HM ships Caledonia, Despatch, Collingwood, Berwick, St Vincent, Ceylon and Adamant.

Cdr C. W. M. Verker, served in HM ships Heliotrope, Caradoc, Codrington and Leander.

ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

The deaths are reported of the following shipmates:

George Graves, Sidcup, August 20, aged 69.

Bert Moore, ex-Tel, Wisbech, Ships included HMS Virago, East Indies Fleet, August 13.

Jack Stones, Stockton-on-Tees, July 31, aged 68.

Eddie Johnson, Stockton-on-Tees, Aug 2, aged 63.

Stewart Dallas, Stockton-on-Tees, Aug 11, aged 60.

Dennis C Tollenvey, Portsmouth, July 25.

John Bell, founder member South Liverpool, July 28, aged 70.

J. T. Bland DSM, life member, ex-chairman and welfare officer, Wear, aged 75.

Alex Bell, ex-CPO(SA), Bury St Edmunds, and member of Korean Veterans Association. Ships included HMS Ulster, June 16, aged 62.

Harold W. Roberts, MID, Chatham, Ships included HMS Mignonette, HMNZS Killgarry and Monawai.

Albert Ayres, founder member and life member Chislehurst, aged 80.

John Rogers, life member, standard bearer and secretary, Reading. Served HMS Liverpool 1948-49, then submarines. Member of SOCA. July 17, aged 69.

Stephen Bearder, Mansfield and District. Served 1970-81. Ships included HMS Cambridge, Salisbury, Invincible, Excellent, Rook. July 23.

Jack Woods, former secretary Billington and Whalley, and chairman North West Federation of Naval Associations. Ships included HMS Arbut, Far East 1945-46.

Bob Jenkins, Joan Jenkins and Iris Williams, Wivenhoe and Elmstead.

Roy Dench, Albert Jones, Bill Day and Charles Potter, Chatham.

Promotions to Chief

AUTHORITY for promotion of the following ratings to Chief Petty Officer was issued by Captain Naval Drafting in September.

OPERATIONS BRANCH (SEAMAN GROUP)

To **CPO(R)** - N.J.C. Payne (Dryad), W.M. Tasker (Nelson), K. Harris (Manchester), A.J. Sanderson (Dryad).

To **CPO(D)** - A.J. Wheeler (Drake), (COMMUNICATIONS GROUP).

To **MAA** - N.J. Jayes (Glasgow), P.A. Wright (Nelson).

SUPPLY AND SECRETARIAT

To **CPOCA** - K. Pickworth (Dolphin).

To **CPOST** - C.P. Shakespeare (Warrior).

To **CPOSA** - A.R. Gerrard (Drake), M. Stewart (Seahawk).

To **CPWTR** - G.A. Orchard (Raleigh), G. Williams (FOSF Nelson), D. Bonas (Neptune).

MEDICAL BRANCH

To **CPOMA** - J. McKay (RM School Music).

To **CPOMEM(L)** - R.J. Ford (Repulse STBD).

To **CPO(WSM)** - C.V. Griffiths (Repulse PORT), A.J. Haynes (Neptune).

FLEET AIR ARM

To **CPOA(AH)** - J.C. Paterson (Fearless).

ACTING CHARGE CHIEF ARTIFICER

Authority was issued by Captain Naval Drafting in September for the following ratings to be advanced to Acting Charge Chief Artificer.

To **ACCMEA** - M.A. Holman (Repulse PORT), G.R. Mayes (Turbulent).

To **ACCWEA** - K. Castro (DGFS ES), B.P. Munslow (DGFS ES), I. Swan (DGFS ES).

CHIEF PETTY OFFICER ARTIFICER
Captain Naval Drafting has been notified of the following advancements to Chief Petty Officer Artificer which were made by Commanding Officers:

To **CPOMEA** - A.J. Crispin (Sultan), M.P. Hughes (Battleaxe), M.K. Nealon (Valiant).

To **ACPOMEA** - P. Holmes (Neptune), P.D. Joyce (Sultan), J.M. Styles (Portsmouth FMRO).

To **CPOAEA(M)** - J.B. McGhee (Prestwick), A.L. Wynne (Heron).

To **CPOAEA(R)** - N.G. Alexander (899 SQN).

To **CPOWEA** - D.F. Brain (Marlborough), P.V. Flower (Gloucester), A.W. Mann (Glasgow), D.J. Mansfield (Talent).

To **ACPOWEA** - K.M. Farley (DGFS ES), M. Jenkins (Neptune), P.A. Stout (Neptune), S.N. Wrighthouse (Vanguard STBD).

Swap drafts

POWEM(R) Tickle, 455 CSU, FMRO Portsmouth until Nov. Will consider any Common, Northern or LFS accompanied draft.

LWTR L. Carr, HMS Dryad ext 4229, will swap for any Plymouth shore base.

LS(R) Kent (ADMPS/ADAWs), HMS Dryad ext 4695, drafted HMS Newcastle, Feb 1 (in refit in Rosyth until Sept). Will swap for any Portsmouth Type 42 or CVS deploying or not.

MEM(M) Moxon, 3N Mess, HMS Glasgow, BFPO 287, drafted HMS Illustrious, Feb 5. Will consider any other ship, preferably not deploying.

PO(MW)(O) B. Warren, HMS Berkeley, BFPO 226, deploying early 96. Will consider any Southern-based MCMV or fishery protection vessel.

LCK Pascoe, 39 MAN Mess, HMS Lancaster, BFPO 323 (Portsmouth based from Nov), will swap for any Plymouth ship.

LWEMQ Byles, HMS Northumberland, deploys Jan. Will consider any Devonport billet.

LSTD Bagen, HMS Northumberland, deploys Jan. Will consider any swap.

AB(M) Hicks, 4 Mess, HMS Hecla, BFPO 293, ext 52750, drafted HMS Dolphin main gate, mid-Oct. Will consider any Portsmouth shore draft.

AB(EW) Shepherd (UAA2 trained), Saumarez Block, HMS Nelson, drafted HMS Battleaxe, March 28. Will swap for any Portsmouth Type 42 or CVS deploying or not.

LS(EW) M. T. Bickerstaffe, HMS Drake ext 65242, drafted HMS York, April. Will consider anything other than Portsmouth ship or shore draft.

WSA Gilderthorp, HMS Drake ext 65880, drafted HMS Northumberland, Dec. Will swap for any Plymouth ship in refit or not deploying.

STD L. Taylor, 5D1 Mess, HMS Illustrious. Will consider any Portsmouth ship.

SA Alsop, HMS Drake ext 65880, drafted HMS Osprey, Oct 24 for five months. Will swap for any shore draft in Plymouth area.

LWSA Badi, RNAS Culdrose ext 7536, drafted (WSA) HMS Gannet, Dec 12. Will swap for HMS Heron or any Plymouth shore base.

LMEM(M) Huntley, 6F4 Mess, HMS Illustrious, BFPO 305 (until March). Will consider any Portsmouth draft.

deploys Jan. Will consider any Devonport billet.

LSTD Bagen, HMS Northumberland, deploys Jan. Will consider any swap.

AB(M) Hicks, 4 Mess, HMS Hecla, BFPO 293, ext 52750, drafted HMS Dolphin main gate, mid-Oct. Will consider any Portsmouth shore draft.

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WSA Gilderthorp, HMS Drake ext 65880, drafted HMS Northumberland, Dec. Will swap for any Plymouth ship in refit or not deploying.

STD L. Taylor, 5D1 Mess, HMS Illustrious. Will consider any Portsmouth ship.

SA Alsop, HMS Drake ext 65880, drafted HMS Osprey, Oct 24 for five months. Will swap for any shore draft in Plymouth area.

LWSA Badi, RNAS Culdrose ext 7536, drafted (WSA) HMS Gannet, Dec 12. Will swap for HMS Heron or any Plymouth shore base.

LMEM(M) Huntley, 6F4 Mess, HMS Illustrious, BFPO 305 (until March). Will consider any Portsmouth draft.

LSA Wright, HMS Daedalus ext 4226, drafted HMS Lancaster, Nov. Will swap for any Portsmouth ship not deploying or in refit.

CK Kaberry, Achilles Block, HMS Raleigh, drafted HMS Cornwall, late Oct. Will swap for any Portsmouth ship.

LCK Jones, HMS Mornmouth, BFPO 338, drafted HMS Osprey, Dec. Will swap for any Portsmouth shore base.

OM(C)1 O'Brien, 3E Mess, HMS York, BFPO 430, deploying Feb. Will swap for any shore base or ship not deploying.

LCK A.B. McMichael, SE (Port) Mess, HMS Invincible, BFPO 308, drafted HMS Heron, Dec 19. Will swap for any Scottish shore base or London area.

MEM Cox, Fort Southwick ext 5280, drafted HMS Fearless, Jan 8. Will swap for any Portsmouth ship or NP2010 deploying after Christmas.

LSA K. Doldge, HMS Illustrious, BFPO 305, deploying end of Nov. Will swap for any Portsmouth ship in DED or on short deployments.

AB(R) Mainwaring, HMS Argyll, BFPO 210, deploying early 96. Will consider any Devonport ship.

LWTR Rutland, RFANSU, RNAS Culdrose ext 7260. Will swap for any Plymouth ship deploying or not.

AB(EW) Field, HMS Newcastle (in refit, Rosyth - shore draft), will swap for any Portsmouth shore draft.

CK1 Chick, HMS Coventry (12-month refit, Rosyth), will swap for any Plymouth ship not deploying. Tel 01752 480357.

LWEM(R) Carter, 2K Port Mess, HMS Northumberland, BFPO 345, deploying Jan. Consider any shore base or ship not deploying.

WEM(O)1 Stevens, HMS Richmond, BFPO 375. Accepted for redundancy. Will consider any Portsmouth shore draft.

AB(R) Pullom (ADAWs, Nav's Yeo trained), HMS Intrepid ext 22869, drafted to Invincible, Dec. Will swap for any Portsmouth Type 42 deploying or not.

LMEM(M) Fletcher (Scale A), Faslane ext 77246, drafted HMS Illustrious, Feb. Will swap for any Nil draft or Plymouth Type 22.

OM(EW)1 S. Neve, HMS Campbeltown, BFPO 248, deploying May. Will swap for any Portsmouth ship deploying or not.

AB(EW) Wyton, HMS Birmingham, BFPO 228, will swap for any Plymouth or Portsmouth shore base.

WTR Elton, HMS Raleigh ext 41569, will swap for any UPO/Registry draft in Plymouth area.

CPO(M) Ratcliffe, HMS Northwood ext 8480, drafted HMS Iron Duke, March. Will swap for Type 42 or Portsmouth Type 23, preferably not deploying.

WEM(O) Turnbull, 3P Mess, HMS

Battleaxe, Plymouth based. Will swap for any Portsmouth ship deploying or not.

AB(S) Hatchard, HMS Bulldog, BFPO 242, ext 53230, deploying Nov. Will consider any sea draft.

POMEM(M) Wilson, HMS Excellent Fire School, HMS Excellent ext 4054, will swap for any Devonport area shore draft.

MEM(M) Anderson (Scale A), HMS Raleigh ext 41569, drafted HMS Campbeltown, Jan. Will swap for any Devonport shore base or ship not deployed next August.

LAEM(R) L. Hayward, drafted 706 NAS, RNAS Culdrose, Oct 9. Will swap for any Scottish draft.

STD Hamilton, HMS Dryad ext 4436, will swap for any Scottish draft.

STD Chamberlain, HMS Illustrious, BFPO 305. Will swap for any Devonport ship deploying or not.

WEM(R) Laing, 3S Mess, HMS York, BFPO 430, deploying Feb. Will swap for any Portsmouth-based sea billet.

LWEM(R) Cundell, 3R Mess, HMS Edinburgh, BFPO 277, will swap for any Plymouth ship, preferably not deploying.

STD S. Buchan, 819 NAS, HMS Gannet ext 4253, will swap for any Plymouth ship deploying or not.

LS(S) J. Parkinson (cross-trained), 3H2 Mess, HMS Coventry, BFPO 259, drafted HMS Beaver, Dec 11 on deployment. Will consider any draft.

Blue Jacket Band appeal



SUPERBLY fitted out, Portsmouth Blue Jacket Band leads a parade in Victory Barracks (now HMS Nelson) shortly after the Second World War.

The picture was sent to *Navy News* by Band C/Sgt David Thornber of the Royal Marines Band Portsmouth, who is researching the history of the Blue Jacket Bands formed in the home depots of Chatham, Portsmouth and Devonport.

They existed for almost 40 years - from the early Twenties until the late 1950s, when central drafting was introduced.

"I understand that these bands were a full-time billet for keen and talented Navy musicians awaiting a sea draft," said David. "All three bands must have achieved a good standard of musicianship as they regularly appeared at the Lord Mayor's Show, Royal Tournament and international football matches."

Since first he appealed, through *Navy News*, for information on RN volunteer bands, David has received many letters and photographs, the one reproduced here being sent to him by Mr T. E. Whitehead.

MSc in navigation . . .

AS A RESULT of an agreement between the Royal Navy and Nottingham University, naval officers may now study for an MSc in navigation technology.

A memorandum of understanding between the university and the School of Maritime

Operations at HMS Dryad, means that officers who have completed the N course would be required to complete only five of nine modules, studying part-time.

Further details can be obtained from Lt Cdr Dai Kent, SO(N), HMS Dryad ext 4697.

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Coventry leaves her calling cards

THERE has been little respite for HMS Coventry this summer after returning from her third Adriatic deployment in three years.

VJ celebrations saw her visiting Edinburgh under the temporary command of her First Lieutenant Cdr Nigel Langhorn while Capt Tom Morton led a contingent of the ship's company to her affiliated city of Coventry and a moving service of remembrance in the bombed out ruins of the old cathedral.

A busy period of weapon training led up to a visit to Rotterdam where she took part in World Harbour Days, welcoming over 8,000 visitors on board during a week-end spent moored in the centre of the world's largest port.

Her latest role has been to lead her sister ship HMS London, fellow Adriatic veteran HMS Campbelltown, RFA Argus and an RN MCM force in Exercise Bright Horizon before another round of commitments around UK waters.

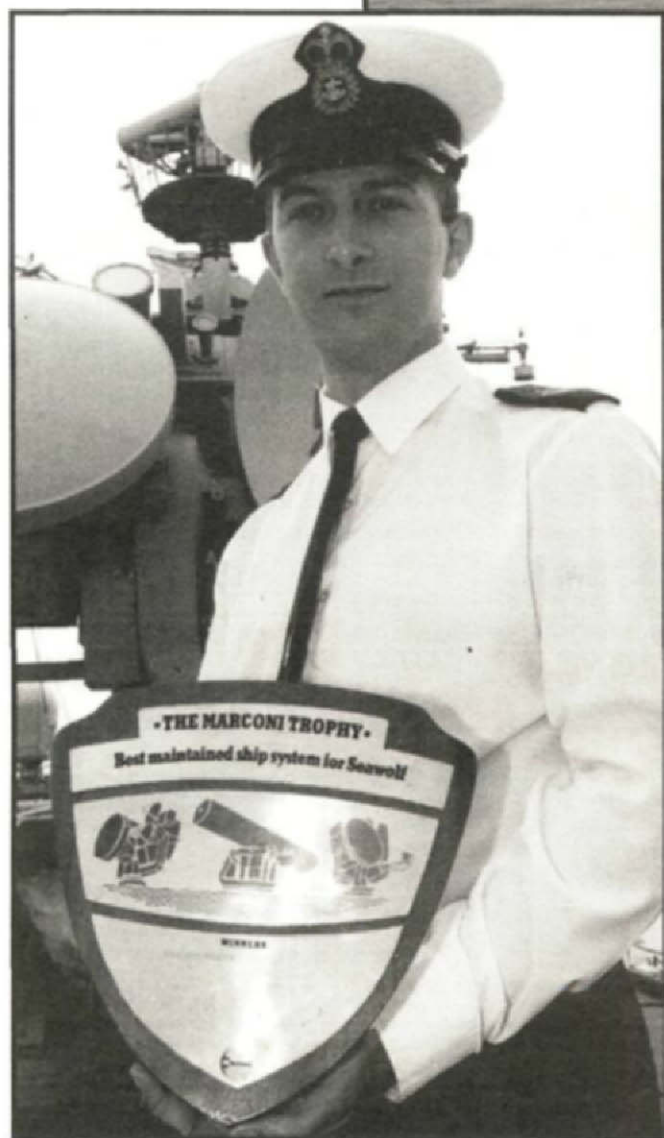
Refit

Individual successes have included the award of the College Sword to S/Lt James Vink for his performance at BRNC Dartmouth, while the Weapon Engineering team collected the Marconi Seawolf Trophy and the Fleet EW Trophy went to CPO(OPS)(EW) Tex Marshall's 'Golly All Stars'.

HMS Coventry will enter refit in the winter, returning to the Fleet some time late next year.

●Top right: HMS Coventry in the English Channel en route to Edinburgh.

●Right: CPO WEA 'Ash' Lever with the Marconi Seawolf Trophy.



Twin viewing of Victory planned

HMS VICTORY will be on show from every angle for a fortnight this month, free of scaffolding for the first time since 1983.

Monday, October 16 will see the completion of external restoration on the port side of the world's oldest commissioned warship. Work on the starboard side, expected to continue to 2001, will start two weeks later.

Her Commanding Officer, Lt Cdr Mike Cheshire, told Navy News: "This is a terrific opportunity for photographers, professional and amateur, to update their libraries at a very important time in the ship's history."

"Trafalgar Day this year marks the 190th anniversary of the most decisive sea battle ever fought and the start of the

Nelson Decade that will remember all Nelson's greatest triumphs."

Meanwhile the Long Beach, California branch of the Royal Naval Association is hoping to buy a model of HMS Victory built for the 1941 film *That Hamilton Woman* and put it on permanent display in the UK.

Churchill

The film, starring Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh and said to be Churchill's favourite, was directed by Sir Alexander Korda who later presented the 25ft, fully-rigged model to the US Navy Training Centre in San

Diego, which has now closed.

Long Beach RNA Chairman Robert Cook told Navy News he hoped to raise £7,000 to give it a new home in Britain, either in Portsmouth or Chatham.

●A memorial plaque to Sir William Beatty, the surgeon who attended Nelson as he lay dying on board the Victory, was unveiled at Kensal Green Cemetery by the 1805 Club last month.

Beatty's account of account of the hero's last moments includes a rare clinical investigation of the fatal wound and a description of the musket ball that caused it (see letter on page 6).

Physician of Greenwich Hospital from 1806-1840, Beatty died in 1842 and is buried in the catacombs beneath the cemetery's Dissenters Chapel.

FOST has a keener edge

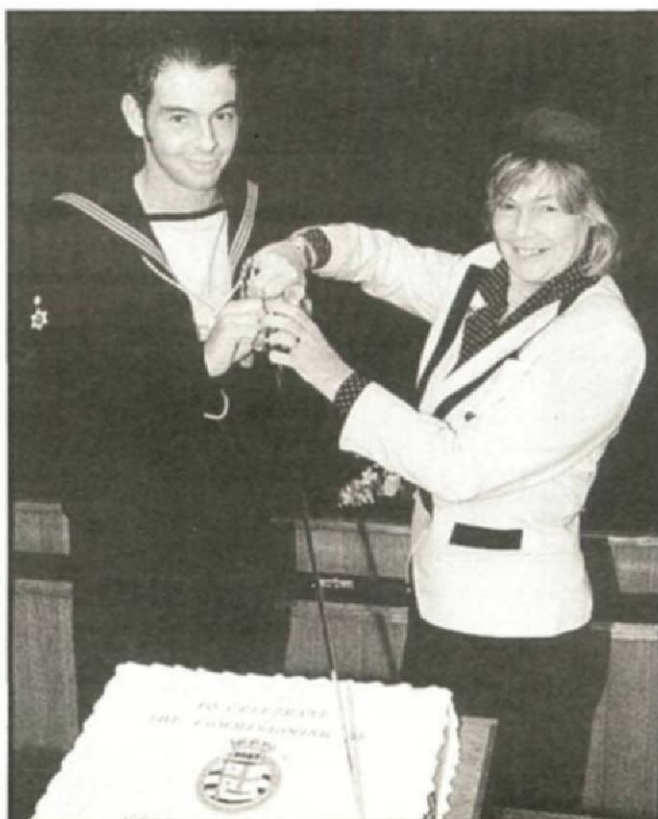
FLAG Officer Sea Training's new headquarters in Grenville Block, HMS Drake were officially opened by the C-in-C Fleet Admiral Sir Hugo White in the week that saw the arrival at Devonport of HMS Endurance, the first ship to undergo sea trials there since FOST moved from Portland.

Admiral White said it marked the beginning of a new chapter in naval history with "a keener cutting edge" in Plymouth.

Demanding

"I am confident that together the city of Plymouth, Flag Officer Sea Training and the Naval Base can look forward to a busy, demanding and yet happy and successful future."

● Mrs Susie Tolhurst, wife of FOST Rear Admiral John Tolhurst, and the new HQ's youngest sailor WTR Chris Rook cut the customary cake.



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Outside help

THE NAVAL Resettlement Organisation at HMS Nelson will hold an Open Day on Wednesday, October 11 from 9a.m.-4p.m.

Information on job finding, job clubs, training after leaving the Service and the various schemes available to the unemployed will be available together with details of training courses provided in Hampshire schools and colleges.

Facilities offered by the Hampshire Training and Enterprise Council's mobile van may be booked in advance on 01705 724127/725120.

HIGH-FLYING FINALE

Glittering end for Daedalus

GOLD LACE, nostalgia and September rain characterised an event viewed by many as the grand finale for HMS Daedalus, the RN air station at Lee-on-Solent. Among those present at the Grand Fleet Air Arm Reunion was Lt Cdr The Duke of York who paid tribute to the FAA veterans of World War II.



● Dampened – but not in spirit. These veterans of the British Pacific and East Indies Fleets find a new use for their commemorative programmes.

Many of them were there to hear him tell members of younger generations that they should never forget those who had made the supreme sacrifice for peace. After being welcomed by the president of the FAA Association, Admiral Sir Raymond Lygo, Prince Andrew said the 50th anniversary of the end of war was of "huge importance".

He said: "The Second World War has been described as the most formidable war in history, one that everyone should be made never to forget lest we descend into the terrible grip again."

Taking pride in the the vital role played by the Royal Navy and Fleet Air Arm served to put into perspective what had been required of them in the past and what could be required in the future.

Prince Andrew was addressing more than 1,300 guests including the First Sea



● Lt Cdr The Duke of York tries a Swordfish for size at HMS Daedalus.

Lord, Admiral Sir Jock Slater; Flag Officer Portsmouth, Rear Admiral Neil Rankin; and Flag Officer Naval Aviation, Rear Admiral Terry Loughran.

Turning to families gathered there, he said members of the Service could not survive without their loyalty and dedicated support.

The reunion on September 1 was followed the next day by a service of remembrance for those who died in the Bri-

tish Pacific and East Indies Fleets. Wreaths were laid by former First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Henry Leach, Admiral Sir Roy Halliday, Admirals Rankin and Loughran, and Capt David Newberry, Captain of HMS Daedalus.

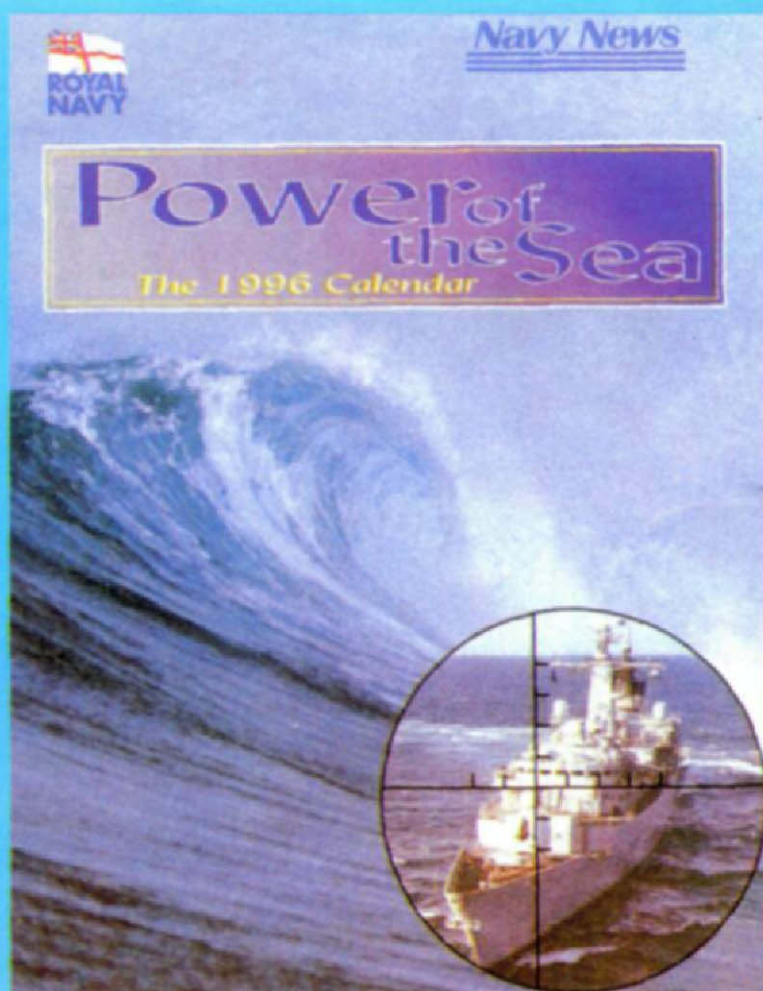
Despite a torrential down-pour, two Swordfish and a Firefly aircraft of the RN Historic Flight repeated their fly-past of the previous day,

lifting the heads and the spirits of dampened spectators.

The commemoration ended a busy summer of events at Daedalus, including the Telegraphist Air Gunners Association weekend in May, the triumphant homecoming of the Daedalus-based FAA Field Gun Crew after their victory in the Royal Tournament, an international survival symposium, a spectacular families day, and the final exercising by Daedalus personnel of the establishment's Freedom of Gosport.

Pictures: LA(PHOT) Andy Baverstock

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TALL FAIR OFFICER, 25, seeks in-
teresting correspondence from daring
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FEMALE 31, 5'6" DARK hair wants
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SLIM BLONDE WIDOW, 58, seeks
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MALE YOUNGER THAN Cliff,
wishes to correspond with wren
younger than Madonna. BOX OCT
20.

KASEY 35 DIVORCED mum GSOH
seeks male (forces) penfriends. BOX
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18.

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joy going out. Seek penpals aged 22-
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OCT 34.

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male, seeks sincere tall penfriend.
Photo appreciated. BOX OCT 35.

WANTED MALE PENPAL 18-25,
GSOH, for lively young female. BOX
OCT 36.

FEMALE AGED 20 would like to
hear from sailors 21-25. BOX OCT
45.

BLONDE SLIM 52YRS. Young at
heart lady seeks penfriend. BOX OCT
44.

YOUNG MALE OFFICER 24, fed
up receiving no mail. Somebody
write. BOX OCT 43.

WIDOW LATE 60'S seeks pen-
friends. Interesting retired sub-mar-
iners preferred. BOX OCT 42.

ITALIAN BORN SEEKS male pen-
friends aged 30-43 years. BOX OCT
41.

FEMALE 25, SEEKS single male
navy penpal for sincere friendship.
BOX OCT 39.

WANTED: JOLLY JACK to corre-
spond with lively young adventurous
female. BOX OCT 38.

SHARON 22, SINGLE, seeks fun
and excitement from male naval pen-
pals. BOX OCT 37.

SCOTTISH DIVORCEE 35yrs old
with 9yr old son would like to corre-
spond. BOX OCT 46.

TRACEY, HOBBIES INCLUDE:
football, listening to music and watch-
ing films. BOX OCT 47.

MARGARET, ATTRACTIVE 40+,
youthful, intelligent, GSOH, wants
naval gentleman penfriend. BOX
OCT 48.

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60, smart, GSOH, warm & caring. En-
joys home life, cooking holidays &
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60-70 who would not normally
answer this. BOX OCT 40.

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SALARY: £16,168 - £29,117 (REF: 01)

DUTIES: The requirements for these posts are varied although, in general, they will involve
specialist advisory and consultancy work including reaching decisions on professional and
technical aspects of statutory requirements. Other requirements include original design
and preparation of complete schemes through to post-design control and modification of
systems and equipments.

These posts demand either a deep knowledge of one of the specialisms indicated or a
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to a wide range of problems, in which, under broad directives, independent judgement
and creative thought has to be exercised in their solution.

QUALIFICATIONS: Chartered professional with several years professional experience or
HNC/HND/HBTEC certificate or equivalent in a relevant subject plus 4 years' formal training
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Higher Professional & Technology Officer (HPTO)

SPECIALISMS: Aircraft Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; Telecomms; Avionic/Mechanical;
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SALARY: £13,025 - £23,009 (REF: 02)

DUTIES: The duties in each specialism are varied, however, in general they require the
management of sections engaged in production operation, maintenance/inspection work
and will involve calculation, testing, analysis, design or computation. These posts are
likely to include work in detailed planning of a specialised and a complex nature or high
quality technical design, requiring independent judgement and creative thought.

These posts require substantial experience of general technical practice, or a wide and
deep knowledge of a principal branch of a subject coupled with practical experience.

QUALIFICATIONS: Relevant degree plus 2 years' training/experience or HNC/HND/HBTEC
certificate or equivalent in a relevant subject plus 4 years' formal training and several
years experience since achieving the qualification.

Professional & Technology Officer (PTO)

SPECIALISMS: Aircraft Engineering; Electrical/Electronic; Mechanical Engineering; Avionics;
Airframe; Aeroengines; General Engineering

SALARY: £11,138 - £19,669 (REF: 03)

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Reynolds' *tour de force*

A FULL and enjoyable tennis year with some farewells to make, the 1995 season began with a surprise – but very welcome – win by the RN women in the Inter-Service 'B' Championships, writes Lt Cdr Steve Fuller.

The event took place at the Army's indoor tennis centre in Aldershot, and the venue was voted a great success even though there was no catching the RAF in the men's competition.

During the summer months the men continued to play in the Hampshire league and the usual fixtures against the London clubs were contested by the 'A' team and RN women.

Hard-fought

The men's Inter-Command Championships produced some excellent tennis and hard-fought matches Portsmouth won, with Fleet runners-up. The women's Inter-Command competition also saw Portsmouth triumph. RM/Plymouth/Thames finished in second place.

The Navy Championships were held at Burnaby Road in glorious summer weather. There was a large entry for the men's event and although no new talent was discovered the standard was generally high. Winner of the men's singles and Earl Beatty Challenge Cup was Lt Rob Reynolds. Mne Nigel Owen was the losing finalist.

Reynolds teamed up with his brother, Lt Cdr Tim Reynolds, to win the men's doubles, and here the runners-up were Cdr Rob Bosshardt and Lt Rod Skidmore.

WDSA Mandy Bridgeland won the ladies singles for the first



Capt Michael Caswell, seated centre, with the winners of the 1995 RN Tennis Championships. Standing (left to right): Lt Cdr T. Reynolds, Cdr P. Eberle, LMEA L. McLaughlin, Lt R. Skidmore, Mrs S. Skidmore, POWPT S. Bone, WO N. Hudson and Lt Cdr C. Crumplin. Seated (left to right): Cdr J. MacColl, Lt R. Reynolds, Capt Caswell, WDSA M. Bridgeland and Capt. B. Gibbs RM.

time, to take the Teinmouth Cup. She beat the RN(W) tennis chairman, Cdr Jennie MacColl.

MacColl then teamed up with POPT Jeannie Bone to overcome WO Nicki Hudson and Bridgeland in the ladies doubles.

Winner of the junior singles was LMEA Lee McLaughlin and LWEA Stuart Allibone was runner-up. The veterans' result reversed that of 1994 – Capt Brian Gibbs beating fellow Royal Marine Maj Stuart Barnes.

The men's veterans doubles

winners were Cdr Peter Eberle and Gibbs; Barnes and Lt Cdr Nigel Morley were runners-up.

Lady veterans

For the first time there was a veteran ladies' doubles competition and here Cdr Anita Picton and Hudson saw off the challenge of MacColl and Miss Barbara Wareham. The mixed doubles winners were Lt and Mrs Skidmore. Cdr and Mrs Bosshardt were runners-up.

The Inter-Service Championships were held at the All England Club Wimbledon. They saw the RAF outclass the other Services, winning the men's, men's veterans and women's veterans events. The Army women just pipped their RAF counterparts for the ladies' title.

Sadly, this was Jennie MacColl's last Inter-Services. She has supported the sport at all levels for 30 years, both as player and RN(W) chairman, and will greatly missed. We wish her luck.

Sultan's sportsmanship praised



INTRODUCED in the 1992/93 season and awarded to the team which has done most in the opinion of the Royal Navy Rugby Union Referees' Society to uphold the spirit of the game, the 31 Trophy has been presented to last season's winners, HMS Sultan.

Pictured (left to right) are Lt Gerald Ashton Jones (RFU panel referee), Capt John Covell (Capt HMS Sultan), LMEM Fairbairn (Sultan team captain 94/95) and WO Tony Gribbon (RNRURS training and development officer).

The Society provides referees for all establishment and ship games, as well as for Inter-Command and Courage National League games on an exchange basis. Some 400 Service games were officiated last season by RNRURS referees from Scotland, Portsmouth and Devonport, and the Society is always looking out for new recruits.

Potential referees should contact WO Gribbon on HMS Collingwood ext 2350 or drop him a line care of the MACCO. He will supply details and the name of your area secretary.

VIVID DAZZLES ON THE SEA AND THE SHOOTING RANGE

BASED at Mount Wise, Plymouth, members of the 200-strong Royal Naval Reserve Training Centre, HMS Vivid, will have their hands full cleaning the silverware over the coming 12 months... but they're used to it!

Eleven trophies were brought back for the cabinet from the RNR Sailing Regatta and the Bisley RNR shooting competition. Among those from the latter was the magnificent, solid silver Westminster Trophy, presented by the then Duke at the turn of the century.

Individuals who excelled included LS Nigel Raddie, who retained the Overall Champion at Arms Trophy, and Wren Kate Dix, who retained the equivalent women's title for a second year.

In the RNR Regatta, which was held at Portsmouth, personnel representing RNR Vivid retained three of the five trophies contested. Between them, Lt Richard Greenacre and PO Kevin Agnew won the events for male officers and all members, so renewing Vivid's grip on the All Units Champion Trophy.

Hong Kong too strong

GOOD friends were made and exciting matches were played during the RN Squash Rackets Association tour of Hong Kong, but the high standard of the opposition severely restricted the visitors' tally of wins.

The party's travel arrangements were handled by the Joint Services Travel Centre and seats obtained via the Concessionary Non Fare Paying Scheme and the Military Late Standby Fare Scheme, so bringing down costs tremendously. In Hong Kong the players were accommodated at Prince of Wales Barracks.

Chairman

Each morning of the tour was given over to training. The first match was against Kowloon Cricket Club. The Navy's only win came from RNSRA chairman Capt Richard Pelly, the overall defeat extending to 9-1.

The following day the RN players pitted their skills against the Hong Kong Locals. The Locals won 8-2; Pelly and Lt Robin Young were the Navy winners.

Third match of the tour was played

against HK Football Club in magnificent surroundings. This was the tourists' best showing, but again they went down to the local players. The Navy lost 6-4, with wins by Pelly, Cdr Robin Bawtree, Lt Nick Dymond and CCMEA Bob Giddings.

Morrison Cup

Hong Kong Squash Centre was the venue for the Morrison Cup competition, a 16-string match against an HK Select team. The RN team was supplemented with British Forces players, but lost 14-2. Pelly maintained his 100% record.

Final match of the tour was against HK Cricket Club, who won 8-1. A fine win by Bob Giddings provided the crumb comfort for the Navy squad.

Tour manager Robin Young said, "The squash and social exchanges ensured many friends were made and proved an ideal opportunity to foster much goodwill."

He particularly thanked Maj Bill Mead, British Forces point of contact in Hong Kong, for making the arrangements.

COMERFORD PRODUCES THE GOODS

SCOTLAND Command scored a notable and worthy victory in the recent Inter-Command Matchplay Championships played at Hayling Golf Club, writes Cdr Gary Skinns.

The dryness of the links added to the difficulty of the course, which again proved a stern test for all the competitors. Manpower constraints meant a number of players had to withdraw from Command sides just before the event began, but this does not detract in any way from what was Scotland's second only triumph in the history of these championships.

Under pressure

They were ably led by Navy player CPOWTR Eddie Comerford (HMS Cochran), who, knowing his Inter-Service selection depended on a good performance, duly produced the goods in recording four wins and one half from his five matches playing at number one.

Experience was obviously the key in the selection of the Scottish side as the average age of the seven-man team was no less than 43! Comerford was well supported down the order; not more so than by Capt Paul Du Vivier (FOSNNI), RNSA chairman, who played every match – with a caddy it has to be said – and finished undefeated.

Discretion prevents your correspondent from revealing the effect the chairman's presence had on the team's average age!

Portsmouth Command, led by Lt Cdr Jim Curwen (Centurion), the new Command secretary, improved significantly on last year's performance in taking the runner-up spot.

Naval Air, pre-event favourites, suffered more

than most from missing star players, and Fleet put up a sterling performance which but for one or two matches going the wrong way late on would have lifted them from wooden spoon position.

Earlier in the month a small Navy team took part in the Denham Bowl, played over the delightful course of the same name near Northwood.

The event attracts very high quality teams from as far away as the north of Scotland and the RN team acquitted themselves well in finishing in the top half of the field, thus ensuring an invitation to next year's event.

Potential Inter-Service pairings were tried and Sgt Bill Parker (847 NAS)/LPT Bill Stretton (RNAS Yeovilton) produced four-omes rounds of 77 and 79, while CPO Taff James (RNAS Portland)/Lt Cdr Darryl Whitehead (702 NAS) scored 78, 81.

Dupree

Another notable success among Royal Navy golfers was achieved at Rowlands Castle Golf Club, when MAA Chris Wellstead (FOSF), a 15 handicapper, won the annual Summer Open competition for the Dupree Trophy. He triumphed over a field of some 150.

He finished second in the qualifying medal round, progressing to the matchplay knockout phase and won the 36 hole final by a margin of 2/1. Apart from having his handicap cut his main worry is how to look after the four foot high trophy until next year.

Calling all Navy athletes

THE Royal Navy Athletic Club will hold its annual general meeting at 1600 on Tuesday, November 7, at the United Services Sports Ground, Burnaby Road, Portsmouth. All members are encouraged to attend. Your point of contact is Lt Jim Donnelly, on RN air station Yeovilton ext 6258.

Toboggan or not toboggan – that is the question!

WITH the core of a team and organisation which should dominate the Inter-Services Championships for several years, the Royal Navy Tobogganing Club is anticipating an exciting season, writes new team captain, Lt Cdr Andrew Mills.

The season begins next month when Lt Jamie Summers will lead a squad of up to 12 riders to the British Novice Bob Skeleton Championships in Austria. It was there last season that AB(D) Sid Lawrence (Plymouth Clearance Diving Unit) became British champion.

The Inter-Service Championships will be held, as usual, on the Cresta Run in St Moritz in early February. Together with our prized sponsorship by Save and Prosper – which offsets the otherwise prohibitive cost of competing – the team has received grants from Naval sources and the future looks highly promising.

The RN Tobogganing Club is open to all serving members of the Royal Navy. An antiquated club rule forbids females from riding the Cresta Run, but women are able to compete at all other events. To be a good rider one must have the desire to ride a toboggan down an icy track for about 60 seconds at speeds of up to 85 mph.

If you would like to join the RNTC contact me, Lt Cdr A. Mills, WEO DEVSCT, Exmouth Block, HMS Drake, Devonport, Devon PL2 2BG. Tel Drake ext 67518 or 01752 557518 for further details.

IN BRIEF

WANTED for the 1995/96 season, players for the RN under 25 squash team to play at various levels against Service and civilian opponents. Men and women under 25 years who play squash to ship or establishment standard are asked to contact WOMEM Pete Debono at FOST ME, Room 23, Grenville Block, HMS Drake, or phone 01752 557340 ext 68293.

THE RN cricket team will tour in Hong Kong and Malaysia, November 9 to 26 inclusive.

THE Navy's Shore Anglers took part in Ramsey Angling Week and CPO Sam Houston (Osprey) finished eighth in the individual competition. One match during the fishing fest was won by Mr Norman Berry (RNSAA life member), with Sam Houston runner-up.

Entrants in the Universal 500 race are challenged to complete 60 miles of hill and coastal path running, 350 miles of sailing, plus the CTCRM Lympstone endurance course. Details of the August Bank Holiday 1996 event are available from John Harding, Universal Shipyards, Sarisbury Green, Southampton SO3 6ZN. (Tel 0171 629 5050)



71 GOLDS EARN NEEDHAM THE CHAMPIONSHIP

TWENTY-nine archers ranging in standard from novice to international took part in the Royal Navy Archery Championships at HMS Dryad. Teams represented the Navy, Navy Associates, Army Associates and Army Novices.

The gentlemen shot a York round - 12 dozen arrows over 100, 80 and 60 yards - and the ladies shot a Hereford round of 12 dozen arrows over 80, 60 and 50 yards. The novice archers shot a Bristol IV of 12 dozen arrows over 40, 30 and 20 yards.

Erratic

The weather was hot and sunny, and despite a somewhat erratic wind good scores were achieved by most competitors.

Winner of the RN Championship (men's recurve) was Sgt Simon Needham RM with a score of 1,092 (144 hits; 71 golds). POAEA Peter Mather was second on 1,018 (144, 53) and WOAEA Paul Higham was third on 948 (142, 43).

RN Associate Championship ladies' recurve winner was Julie Paine, with a score of 964 (141, 39). Carol Higham was second on 901 (143, 40) and Trish Kemp third on 769 (139, 26). The

RN Associate Championship men's recurve result was as follows: 1, Gerry Mould 981 (143, 46); 2, Martin Paine 770 (140, 24); 3, Dave Jones 626 (125, 11).

The Royal Navy team, whose members were Needham, Mather, Higham and POAEA Barry Green (856 (140, 33)), won the team competition with a team score of 3,914. RN Associates were second on 3,616 and Army Associates third on 3,535.

Needham also achieved a six gold end at 100 yards for the first time in competition, which was indicative of the relaxed atmosphere of the shoot.

Birmingham

The Navy's archery season began particularly well this year with the Inter-Services Indoor Championships, which were held in Birmingham. The Navy team, consisting of Higham, Needham, CPOAEA Robbie Roberts and Mather, took

the team prize, but only after a very close battle with the Royal Air Force. Individually, Needham was second and Higham third. The RN Archery Society also fielded an associate team for the first time in many years.

Glorious

The Outdoor Inter-Services Championship was held last month at Taunton. The glorious summer was already over and the event was shot in torrential rain.

Even without their No 1 archer, Simon Needham, the Navy team of Lt Cdr Billy Bean, Higham, Mather and Green took the team prize.

The RN also claimed the first three individual places. This time it was Mather who struck gold, Higham silver and Green bronze.

Once again an associate team was fielded for the first time in many years and, in a very close match, it was beaten into third place.

Sport



THIS summer saw Lt Cdr Nobby Clarke (DRA Portsdown) and POPT Billy Bremner (Joint Service Mountain Training Centre, Wales) reach the summit of the Eiger by the famous Mittellegi Ridge. They descended by the South Ridge. The ascent came during an expedition to the Bernese Oberland, Switzerland, sponsored by Director of Naval Physical Training and Sport and the RN and RM Mountaineering Club.

BROCKLESBY TEAMS IMPRESS IN GERMAN FESTIVAL CONTESTS

AT THE German naval base of Wilhelmshaven for the Jadedfest - or River Jade Festival - HMS Brocklesby proved a popular attraction during the associated Navy Days event.

Joining German, Dutch, French and Danish naval craft (plus Norwegian and Russian sailing vessels), she was open to the public and large numbers were welcomed on board.

Official functions took place on the ship, but as with any German festival great emphasis was also placed on having fun. Brocklesby's ship's company performed admirably in a raft race and tug-of-war, finishing second in the latter. Also in keeping with German tradition, copious amounts of beer were drunk.

HMS Brocklesby's soccer team took on the local side and were unlucky to lose, but their sporting performance led to an invitation to play a touring American youth side. This capable team also proved too strong for the ship side, which was weakened by injury, and Brocklesby went down 2-1.

Funds combine to buy dive-boat for HMS Heron SAC



Heron's divers celebrate the arrival of their RIB. Now all they need is some open water!

VALUED at £14,800, the dive-boat and associated equipment now in the possession of the HMS Heron Sub-Aqua Club are highly prized by all who use them. They free the divers from having to share a boat with other clubs, giving Heron SAC the independence to plan a full programme of weekend open water dives to suit their members.

The club provides training and adventurous sport diving to all ranks, plus dependants and civilian MOD employees. Formed back in 1962, it is a branch of the British Sub-Aqua Club and follows the stringent training demanded by BSAC of all would-be sport divers.

Heron SAC meets on Mondays for pool and classroom training, passing on to members the background in dive theory, physiology and safety skills necessary for safe diving.

During the past five years the club has expanded rapidly and it now caters for 32 diving members, ranging in standard from novice to advanced.

Club chairman, CPO Mal Perry (800 NAS) said: "I must emphasise that our club remains open to 2,431 officers, ratings and civilian elements, plus all front line operational squadrons when not deployed, based at RNAS Yeovilton, the HQ of the Fleet Air Arm, Flag Officer Naval Aviation staff and Director General Aircraft

(Navy), and, more recently, our new lodger, the Defence Helicopter Support Agency."

The club applied to the Sailors' and Fleet Amenities Funds for a major grant toward the dive-boat package. Naval Air Command SAC endorsed the application and pledged a grant of £1,000, and HMS Heron Central Amenities Fund added a further grant of £1,580. HSAC assets of £521 were added to the kitty, reducing the total of the major grant required to £12,034.85, which was duly approved.

The dive-boat, christened Heron Diver, is a Ribcraft 5.75m vessel with integral fuel tank, twin Mariner 60hp power-plant, global positioning system, echo sounder, 55 channel VHF radio and fully-braked trailer.

Said Mal: "To everyone involved in this project and on behalf of HMS Heron I would like to thank you for your support, but in particular Naval Air Command Sub Aqua Club and Mr Mike Gardner, of Ribcraft Ltd, Yeovil."

ROYAL MARINE SAVED 20,000

A ROYAL MARINES officer who saved 20,000 people by foiling a Serbian dambuster plot returned to the region for a hero's welcome in September.

Capt Mark Gray, who two years ago was serving as an acting major with UN peacekeeping forces in Croatia, secretly lowered the water level of the Peruca Dam before Serb forces blew it up.

Twenty-five villages lay below the structure which is twice the size of the massive Kielder Dam in Northumberland. The Serbs had cut off water to the villages and the level behind

the dam was rising dangerously.

Capt Gray's suspicions that the dam had been mined by the Serbs were confirmed by British Army engineers. So, under the noses of Serb soldiers he ran excess water out via a drainage channel, reducing the dammed level by about 20ft.

Explosives

The Serbs detonated the explosive charges when the Croatians regained control of the area and the dam slumped several feet. But, thanks to Capt Gray's drainage, the dam did not fail and a catastrophe was averted.

The remarkable story of the Peruca Dam

was told last month by Prof Paul Back, an engineering specialist speaking at the conference of the British Association of Science in Newcastle upon Tyne.

He said that at the time few were aware of Capt Gray's part in the crisis, newspapers reporting that "a miracle" had saved the 20,000 villagers.

Capt Gray returned to 3 Cdo Brigade HQ and Signal Squadron on completion of his UN duties.

Last month he was taking part in an exercise at HMS Dryad shortly before his journey back to the Peruca Dam to receive the thanks of the Croatian Hydro-Electricity Company and to witness its reopening.

Accident puts mast team on hold

THE NAVY'S final mast manning display, due to take place at the Royal Albert Hall, may be cancelled as a result of an accident which left one member of the 48-man team with serious spinal injuries.

LS Paul Wilson fell 20ft while descending a rope after a display at Buckinghamshire County Show, Aylesbury. As the "button boy" he had stood at the top of the 90ft mast for the manning routine on September 8.

A Board of Inquiry has submitted its report to Flag Officer Naval Aviation, who is responsible for the HMS Daedalus-based RN Display Team.

A second inquiry, to be held by the Health and Safety Executive, is not due to begin until October 9.

The display team, which will be disbanded next month, plans its final performance at the Albert Hall Festival of Remembrance on November 11. However, a spokesman at Daedalus told Navy News that if the HSE had not completed its inquiry before that date, or was critical of the display, the performance would not go ahead.

Operation

"As the team is being disbanded in November, that would mean cancellation of the last performance, not merely postponement," he said.

LS Wilson underwent a spinal operation at Stoke Mandeville and is now out of intensive care. He is making "steady progress" at the hospital, though the long-term effects of his accident have yet to be established.

Birthday outing for Gibraltar Squadron

CELEBRATING the tenth anniversary of the Royal Navy's Gibraltar Squadron, HMS Ranger leads HMS Trumpeter in an impressive sail-past of The Rock. The squadron was formed in August 28, 1985 when it took over patrol duties from RAF maritime craft.

Portuguese Algarve

Following an engine change for Trumpeter, both vessels deployed to the Portuguese Algarve for a goodwill visit to Portimao. Picture: Sgt John Readshaw.



Downed pilot was ex-Navy

ONE OF the two balloonists shot down and killed over the former Soviet state of Belarus was an ex-Fleet Air Arm officer.

Lt Cdr John Stuart-Jervis RN (retd) died while taking part in an international balloon race in company with his friend and co-pilot, Alan Fraenckel of the USA. Their craft D Caribbean is reported to have been shot down by interceptors close to an air and missile base near the Polish border.

Lt Cdr Stuart-Jervis retired from the RN in

1968. His last appointment was naval attaché in Australia. He married an American and adopted US citizenship, making his home in St Croix in the US Virgin Islands, but he remained a member of the FAA Association. In 1988 he was made an MBE in recognition of his work as honorary naval liaison officer in St Croix.

The US has made a formal protest over the attack on the balloon, and the Belarus authorities are reported to have promised a government investigation.

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